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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH 2009

Wife fears for husband on prison hunger strike

MAURICE KIRK, – prison protest.

THE wife of Vale Flying Vet Maurice Kirk has spoken of her fears that her elderly husband is prepared to die in Cardiff Prison, where he has been on a protest hunger strike for three weeks.

Last week, The GEM was first to break the news that Mr Kirk, of St Donats, who has been remanded in custody at the prison, following his arrest in June, has been refusing food.

Mrs Kirstie Kirk said that he was making this extreme stand because he was 'frustrated' – as he wanted to make a personal appearance in court to defend himself against charges involving a vintage World War One firearm, and needed time to prepare his own defence.

On June 24, Mr Kirk appeared at Barry Magistrates Court charged with unlawfully possessing a 1916 Lewis machine-gun and attempting to sell it without authority.

He was granted bail, but following an appeal by the prosecution at Cardiff Crown Court, he was remanded in custody until July 6 and later further remanded until September 1 to await trial.

Mrs Kirk told The GEM she is now "gravely concerned" for her 64-year-old husband, who is in the prison's hospital wing.

"I visited him in prison on Tuesday of this week and he is clearly very unwell. He has lost a huge amount of weight and is showing clinical signs of the damage being done to his body through not eating.

"He was not in very good physical health before he was taken to prison and continues to suffer almost constant pain owing to extensive arthritis, an unhealed pelvic fracture, and severe intestinal pain.

"However, he remains as mentally astute as ever and is determined to stand by his legal rights to a fair trial."

She said that her husband was a man of principle, who despite the toll on his health, remained "absolutely resolute" to see his protest campaign through.

Though she and their young daughter were deeply distressed at his situation, Mrs Kirk said she fully supported her husband's right to act according to his deeply-held convictions.

"People like him with high principles change history," she said.

On Tuesday, she could see that Mr Kirk had great difficulty in walking and he told her he was not sure if he would be able to manage the walk to the visitors' centre in future.

"I am very worried about where this is going and will be pursuing this with the prison medical team.

"He really shouldn't still be in there," she insisted.

LATE NEWS:

As The GEM went to press yesterday, a Ministry of Justice spokeswoman in London informed us by telephone that Mr Kirk was "eating again".

Joyce looks back on 40 years service at the Red Cross

by PHILIP IRWIN

A COWBRIDGE woman has been talking to The GEM about her record of 40 years of service with the Red Cross.

Joyce Wingfield was recently presented with the 'Cowbridge Citizen of the Year' award in recognition of her time with the local branch of the humanitarian organisation.

She said: "My husband Tony and I moved to the area from Northampton in 1968, and I joined the Cowbridge branch within a year."

Tony had secured the post of county valuer with the local authority, and Joyce's first task with the Red Cross was to go to Hensol to help out in the mental hospital.

She remembered: "There were two wards, one for adults and one for children. We would put out flowers in the summer, and generally visit and talk to patients.

"Also, we would do regular Sunday lunches for the children's ward."

ABOVE: Joyce and Tony Wingfield with her citizenship award. (Photograph by Mike Wilcock).

Joyce added that it had been very rewarding developing relationships with the young people on the ward, although it was not always possible, because some patients' mental condition meant that they did not talk."

Hensol was gradually run down, as patients were moved elsewhere, and it was in 1999, 30 years after Joyce joined, that they put on their last Christmas party for the children's ward.

The branch had plenty of other responsibilities. Joyce said: "We were lucky to have two long-standing organisers, Norma Anderson and Jean Roberts, who kept us busy."

"We miss them so much. Norma instigated the opening of the shop in Penny Lane in January, 1996, and it has gone from strength to strength."

In fact, fundraising is probably the main activity for the Cowbridge branch since the closure of Hensol. The branch has organised a variety of events during Joyce's time, from coffee mornings to fashion shows, and from tea dances to garden parties.

Also, there have been the occasions when members have helped out in times of trouble.

On an unexpectedly topical note, Red Cross members helped out with ward duties at the Princess of Wales Hospital during a flu outbreak.

They were also at Rhoose Airport to support passengers returning home after a plane crash in Spain.

Members also took on duties such as caring for handicapped children at the Jane Hodge Holiday Home, or with duties at a number of other residential nursing centres.

Joyce told The GEM: "I don't know who nominated me for this award, but I am grateful.

"It helps me remember all the other people who made their own contributions to a wonderful society which gives great support to people who need it."

GEM NOTE: A history of Cowbridge Red Cross appears on page 15.

Llantwit Major tortoise trader is sentenced

A Llantwit Major man who imported tortoises and iguanas has been in court on animal cruelty charges.

Ian Crosby received a five-year ban from keeping animals, and a suspended prison sentence.

(FOR FULL DETAILS, TURN TO PAGE 10).

Star passes through Cowbridge

EDDIE'S UK 'SPORT RELIEF' MARATHON

by TIM CHAPMAN

COMEDIAN and actor Eddie Izzard was running through the Vale on Monday (August 3) as part of his epic marathon round the United Kingdom, on behalf of Sport Relief.

When The GEM caught up with him at the Loch Fyne restaurant on the A48, where he was having an impromptu rest, and asked him how things were going, he replied: "Badly! I'm getting blisters over my toes."

Five weeks ago, Sport Relief, an arm of BBC's Comic Relief, asked Eddie what sort of sporting challenge he would like to take on.

He told The GEM: " I told them I wanted to run around the whole of the UK – London to Cardiff to Belfast to Edinburgh, and back to London – running through as many parts of the country that lie between our four capitals.

"I am doing the equivalent of a marathon each day for six days, and resting on the seventh day.

"In all, by the time I have finished, I will have done 40 marathons and covered more than 1,100 miles."

With a week's running through England and now part of Wales behind him, Eddie is starting to suffer.

"I'm getting blisters over my toes – one of them has popped, and I've pulled one of my calf muscles."

Eddie has a full support team in tow, along with a TV crew to record his act of endurance.

He added: "In England I held an English flag; in Wales I'm holding the Welsh flag, and so on, because my message is: 'We are different, we are the same, we are the United Kingdom, we are Africa, and we are humanity.

"If people would like to support my venture please go to my website for more details - there's also a link to read me on Twitter."

• *Eddie's website is: **www.eddieizzard.com**, and you can sponsor him at **www.sportrelief.com**.*

ABOVE: Loch Fyne general manager Emma Passmore and chefs Gareth Howard and Nathan Oakley met Eddie when he had a rest in the restaurant car park.

RIGHT: Eddie Izzard pictured with his Welsh flag outside Cowbridge.

Power from the River Thaw?

WATCHING the water pouring through the sluice on the Thaw after the recent heavy rains, I had to wonder why there is no turbine in it to generate electricity?

There is always some water coming through, and a turbine would be hidden completely by the concrete walls and grill on top, so there would be nothing at all to spoil any view,
RH Bradshaw, Cowbridge

Thanks to young terrier rescuers

CREDIT must go to the two young lads who rescued a young Yorkshire terrier they found merrily dodging in and out of the traffic on Monmouth Way, Llantwit, last Saturday.

After handing it over to a concerned resident, it only took a few phone calls and the expert knowledge of the local postman to have the happy hound re-united with its grateful owners.
Chris Moss, Llantwit Major

'Where have all the trolleys gone?

THERE is an old song that goes, '*Where have all the flowers gone*' – I would like to change this to '*Where have all the trolleys' gone*?'

The explanation for this is that the Somerfield store places blue plastic baskets and blue lightweight trolleys for the use of the public inside the main door.

Unfortunately, in visiting the store today, I was informed that all the lightweight trolleys had been taken from the store and not returned.

These trolleys are very useful, particularly for the elderly as they are far easier to handle than the large metal trolleys situated outside the store.

May I ask the general public who have taken blue trolleys, to return them as soon as possible?
Mrs Barbara M Sawyer, Llantwit Major

Open gardens day beats the weather

THE open gardens day trail in Penarth, as always, was a huge success despite the inclement weather.

On Sunday, more than £4,500 was raised for The Children's Society.

My thanks, on behalf of the society, go to The GEM for so generously affording us the very necessary publicity that is vital to these events.

Also to all those of the public who never let us down, whatever we do, as well as the donors and helpers.

People turned out in their hundreds on a super Saturday. We look forward to seeing you all next year on July 24-25.
Ann Lush, Penarth
(Hon vice president of The Children's Society, chairman of the Penarth fundraising committee)

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Enforce the law or remove signs at Llantwit car park'

FURTHER to the many letters The GEM has already published regarding camping on the Llantwit Major beach car park area, I am also in agreement with Mrs Swift and others who have complained about the sad state the area is left in – strewn with rubbish, broken bottles and fire pit remains by these campers.

I am also sure she did not direct her complaint directly at campervan owners, but all campers in general, and is aware of campervan facilities and that their owners also pay council taxes.

My main complaint is the lack of policing and management of the facility to ensure cleanliness and is aimed at the council to address the situation.

However, I need to correct one error in the recent letter by P Pitson. The signs regarding dogs, do not refer to them being on a leash at all times, but restricts them going onto the beach between May 1-September 30 and prohibits the leaving of excrement by the animals. (Both carry a £1,000 maximum penalty).

There are however signs clearly stating: No overnight parking; no camping; no fires; no caravans; no lorries; no unauthorised coaches – plus location and directions to the nearest authorised camp site.

If these signs were complied with, there would have been no need for Mrs Swift to have sent the original letter.

The council should enforce the law or remove the signs and introduce a fee for using the facilities, which could be used to pay towards the management and upkeep.
D Marshall, Llantwit Major

Rhoose residents need to have a say

WITH reference to recent correspondence in The GEM, a Community Council for Rhoose would not be free – but in this life you get what you pay for.

The residents in Rhoose need to have a say, protected by law, in how the village is run and what changes and improvements they would like to see.

At the moment, Rhoose gets what the councillors from Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Barry thinks it deserves.
Andrew Bailey, Rhoose

Airport road: the missed opportunity

I WAS surprised to read the letter in last week's GEM from a regional nationalist Assembly Member trumpeting his transport Minister's long-awaited announcement on the Cardiff Airport access road.

First, we were expecting a decision from the Minister in December 2008, then spring of this year, delayed again until July, and it was eventually made at the very last session of the Assembly term.

I spoke out on at least six occasions, calling for an announcement on the preferred route. Pressure was also applied by communities across the Vale.

Residents from Wenvoe and Pendoylan were particularly vocal in expressing the interests of their villages.

While Welsh Conservatives welcome improvements to the Five Mile Lane, these cannot be confined to Weycock Cross, as such improvements are existing commitments, as part of the defence academy developments.

This statement on road improvements does nothing to improve road safety in the Vale and represents a missed opportunity to improve access to Barry, or to solve chronic traffic problems at Culverhouse Cross and Dinas Powys.
Andrew RT Davies AM (Assembly Member for South Wales Central)

'Choose the best person for the job'

I WAS surprised that there was no response to last week's news that Labour were looking for female candidates in the next election.

Surely this is sexist? Could you imagine the uproar if they had plumped for male-only candidates? It just goes to show people have grown tired of all the political correctness.

Surely the Vale should be represented by the best person for the job, whatever colour, creed or sex?
(Name and address supplied)

Losing the war in Afghanistan?

THE Taliban must be a formidable enemy, as the fourth Anglo-Afghan war has lasted longer than World War 2, with no end in sight.

Ranged against them are 42 nations equipped with aircraft, helicopters, tanks, armoured vehicles, heavy artillery and the most technologically sophisticated equipment.

The Taliban have small arms, grenades, explosives – and travel around on mopeds.

Essentially, we are assisting one side in a civil war and are set to lose for a fourth time.
Christopher Short, Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 13)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
06 Thur	08.08	13.8	20.23	13.9
07 Fri	08.42	13.9	20.59	14.1
08 Sat	09.16	14.1	21.21	14.4
09 Sun	09.49	14.3	21.57	14.3
10 Mon	10.19	14.2	22.38	14.0
11 Tues	10.52	13.7	23.03	13.6
12 Wed	11.19	13.4	23.44	13.3
13 Thur	11.58	13.0		

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0800 800500.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support -
Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

Citizens Advice: At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Office opening times vary throughout the week.Telephone 0845 120 3756 between 10am and noon for details). Further information on www.adviceguide.org.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.
Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.
Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.
Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 709105. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline - 02920 673000.
To report a fly tipping incident - 02920 673000.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.
For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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ALLOTMENTS FURORE SURFACES AGAIN AT COWBRIDGE COUNCIL

THE application for a CASH grant from the Vale Council to replace the fence at the Cae Rex allotments has been turned down.

The Vale Council has told Cowbridge Town Council that this project is not suitable for a grant and they should fund the work from their own precept.

As previously reported, the issue of the fence has already sparked a row between mayor Jon Harris and Coun Marian Arnold, chair of the leisure and amenities committee.

Coun Arnold said that the fence was needed to enable allotment holders to protect their crops, but Coun Harris wondered whether council taxpayers would want to spend money for the benefit of a relatively few people.

The committee has now agreed to ask the clerk to get estimates for the cost of replacing the existing fence with something similar, or refurbishing the existing fence.

The town council also received a letter from David Weber, of Kingscombe Cottages, Llanblethian, who said he had spoken to allotment holders, who said they only wanted a new chain link fence strung above ground level so that they could clear beneath it.

He said that this would be cheaper than the type of fence the council had been discussing; and he wondered if any councillors had actually spoken to allotment holders about what they wanted.

It was agreed to refer his letter to the leisure and amenities committee.

There was a second letter from Dinky Kennedy of Transition Cowbridge, who stated that she had spoken to Graham Ager, secretary of the Cae Rex allotments, who said that there were 14 people on the waiting list and one person has been waiting since 1994 and others for five years.

Transition Cowbridge was trying to support allotment holders and to develop community gardens in and around Cowbridge to encourage food production by individuals and community groups.

She asked the town council to consider developing other sites for allotments and mentioned an area inside Poplars Park. Other sites are currently being identified.

She wondered if the town council could identify any areas themselves which could be developed by the group. The land would be cleared by the Groundwork Trust.

Coun Marian Arnold said that she knew nothing about people being on a waiting list for allotments – unless it was a list kept by the allotment holders themselves. Clerk Andrew Davies was equally mystified.

Coun Arnold said that she did not agree with open spaces being dug up for planting.

Andrew Davies pointed out that Poplars Park did not belong to the Town Council.

Coun Arnold observed that there may be elderly people with large gardens who may be willing to let others grow vegetables, in return for some of the produce – but she wondered whether they would be happy to let strangers into their gardens.

Coun Sue Cox said that this letter should be referred to the Vale Council as it was their responsibility to provide allotments and not the Town Council.

The Town Council had only delegated powers over allotments and only owned very limited land.

Coun Nicola Thomas felt that it would be good news if an organised group could cultivate the gardens of older people.

"It would be nice to have these arrangements," she added.

It was agreed to pass their letter on to the Vale Council.

Town Council steps in over Mencap cash

A decision by the finance and general purpose committee of Cowbridge Town Council to make no donation to Mencap Cymru for services provided in the Vale has been overturned by the full council.

Coun Gwen Baty said that the council should be supporting Mencap which was active in the Vale. She pointed out that the council had set aside £1,500 for charitable donations and they should make a donation.

Coun Len Taylor, chairman of the committee, reported that they had had a full discussion and members had noted that the council already supported the Monday Club.

He stated that the council only had limited finance and was not in a position to support national organisations. He added the decision had been taken reluctantly. However, Coun Baty said that this was not a national charity – it was specifically for the Vale. She pointed out that the Monday Club was a different organisation which supported youth activities, whereas Mencap helps people of all ages.

Supported by Coun Marian Arnold, she moved that £100 be donated.

Coun Taylor felt that the council should be prudent and keep money to deal with applications which come in later in the year, but Coun Baty stated that last year's grants budget was not totally spent and some money had gone back into the reserves.

Coun Arnold said, in her view, £100 was neither here nor there.

The council voted against giving £100, but agreed to donate £50, which was proposed by Coun Taylor.

St David's school pupils get to grips with local history

STAFF and pupils at St David's Primary, Colwinston, were recently delighted to welcome Mrs Debbie Fisher from the Cowbridge Record Society to present them with a cheque for £200.

The money had been won by the year-3 pupils, when they entered an annual competition run by the Welsh Heritage Schools' Initiative.

The focus of the historical study was the listed building of Pwll y Wrach House, Colwinston, owned by Mr Mathew Prichard.

Over a number of weeks, the children learned about Pwll y Wrach and its gardens. Interviews were conducted, written up and pictorial evidence studied.

The pupils used drawings and photographs to investigate how the house had looked between 1770, 1850 and the present day. The present owners, Mr Prichard (grandson of Agatha Christie, the author) and Mrs Prichard were invited into the school to discuss their home and ancestry.

The project was hugely enjoyable for all involved and receiving the prize was the icing on the cake. The prize money, kindly sponsored by the Cowbridge Record Society in memory of the late Jeff Alden, will go towards funding future history-based school trips.

Teacher Mrs Janis Ellis with year-3 class.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

IT is with sadness that we have to report the death of Mr David John of Penylan Road, St Brides Major, after a long illness, bravely borne. Our thoughts go out to his wife Jacki and the family.

Villagers of St Brides Major stood at the roadside as a mark of respect to Welsh Guardsman Corporal Elson on his last journey to Salem Chapel, Pencoed.

A MEETING was held in Wick Village Hall to distribute the schedules for the forthcoming 41st annual open vegetable and flower show to be held on Saturday, September 5.

Schedules can be obtained at the local post offices and at the Garden Centre, Ewenny.

GET ready for the Parish of Ewenny with St Brides Major autumn fayre, to be held at the school on Saturday, September 12.

There will be competitions and stalls and raffle.

It was good to welcome 'old friends' from Japan this week.

Hitomi and family lived in the village for a few years and the children, now grown up, went to the primary school.

They still have fond memories of their stay here and keep in touch every Christmas.

THERE was a very successful evening of Celtic harp music inspired by the atmosphere in one of 'Wales' Best One Hundred Churches' – Ewenny Priory, on July 16.

Another splendid concert is to be performed by violinist Rodolfo Bonucci, a leading performer in the new generation of talented musicians.

SATURDAY, August 25 is the date for the local produce sale at the church hall, to coincide with the Saturday coffee morning.

Busy season for dancers

THIS summer has already been a very busy one for the senior dancers at Moya Vahey's School of Dance.

A few weeks ago, they were asked to perform at a wedding as a surprise for the bride, a former pupil of the school, at a beautiful location in Trelleck, Monmouth.

They danced again in a Victorian bandstand in Llandeilo for the Mayor's Parade and were so popular that they have been asked to perform there again.

Recently, the school held its summer presentation at Cowbridge Town Hall. Awards were given out and donations were taken for Cancer Research Wales and Velindre Hospital.

The hall was packed and the audience enjoyed 21 performances from children across the Vale. More than £150 was raised. The school thanks everyone who helped and contributed.

Mel's not so miserable in this role!

ABOVE:
The last time Mel Stevens featured in The GEM, it was in Cowbridge Comprehensive School's stirring production of Les Miserables, where she played Eponine.
She was back in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, for the recent Bridgend Youth Theatre production of the classic musical, Gypsy, where it was goodbye to the street urchin look and on with a more colourful costume as she played the role of 'Tessie Tura' – one of the three burlesque strippers that Gypsy Rose Lee encounters.
It is traditionally a show-stopping moment as the three strippers sing 'You Gotta Get a Gimmick' and Mel, along with colleagues Christie Saunders and Rasheeda Ali, did just that – to huge applause.

NEWS FROM COWBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL *in brief*

ALL the questionnaires in respect of the consultation over the conservation area have been delivered by Cowbridge town councillors, the meeting heard.

COWBRIDGE Town Council has raised no objections to plans by the Charter Trust to reinstate the length of wall at Old Hall between the Health Centre and the Market Place.

PLANS to demolish a bungalow at Primrose View, St Quentin's Close, Cowbridge and replace it with a detached dwelling will not be opposed by the town council, if the grassed verge outside is not encroached upon and is protected from damage during construction work.

Members also want a manhole in the garden that had been covered up, identified and kept open for future access.

A RETROSPECTIVE application for some work already done at Tim Vaughan's racing stables has aroused concern among members of Cowbridge's planning committee.

The application is for a building for 22 stables and feed store, two isolation stables and the retention of five pens within an existing building.

Some of this work has already been done and retrospective permission from the Vale Council is sought.

The town council decided to raise no objections, but some members were concerned that some work had already been done.

THE town council is to ask the Vale Council what its plans are for the old Girl's High School building, which is now used by sixth formers, once the new school is built. Members pointed out that it is in poor condition and the grass has not been cut outside.

COUN Marian Arnold asked when a meeting of the footpath forum for the area would be held as there were matters to be discussed.

She said that the footpath by the allotments had a large bramble bush growing at both sides and the area needed attention.

Clerk Andrew Davies stated that a footpath officer had not yet been appointed by the Vale and the post has been re-advertised. He would try and see if a meeting can be organised.

COUN Len Taylor reported he had attended the presentation ceremony for the Best Kept Village in the Vale, which was won by Llanmaes with Wenvoe second and Ystradowen third.

Y Bont Faen primary school won second prize in their category for the nursery, and third prize for the primary, and he praised the youngsters.

Mayor Jon Harris, who also attended the event, said there was a special prize for the gardens at the old almshouses in Pendoylan which were spectacular, and everyone there had worked very hard.

COUN Dave Morris reported that the grant funding for the new playground at Aberthin had come through from the Welsh Assembly and the equipment would be installed within eight weeks.

It was now being made. He said that match funding was being provided by a number of organisations.

COWBRIDGE Town Council spent £152,247 out of a total income of £163,817 in the financial year 2008-09.

The council has £104,661 in its accumulated reserves.

O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.
PSALMS 43 v3 (Cowbridge Christian Fellowship)

CLASSIC CARS TAKE TO THE LLANDOW CIRCUIT FOR ED EVANS FOUNDATION

THANKS to the support of both Llandow Circuit and Bells Engineering of Slough, a track day at the racetrack on Thursday, July 16 raised £2,500.

This was shared equally between the local Ed Evans Foundation and the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Children's Fund.

A total of 24 cars of all ages, including four AC Cobra replicas, two Kougars (which are Jaguar-based) and two Austin Healey 3000s took to the circuit in groups of eight.

There were several local drivers, and all newcomers were provided with tuition in track discipline and car handling to ensure safe and speedy pleasure.

Tom Bright from Caerphilly had his first experience of driving a motor circuit.

He said: "I was given excellent tuition during the first hour, and everyone drove with consideration for others.

"It was a great day and we raised plenty of money for two good causes. I'll be back for more."

The Ed Evans Foundation has raised more than £85,000 for local and national cancer charities.

The RN&RM Children's Fund supports needy children of servicemen and their widows.

Christopher Darwin organised the day and commented: "This was our third event in Llandow in just over a year.

"Llandow looks after us very well – the drivers are having fun and we are doing something useful.

"I plan another day at Llandow in March/April next year – those interested should contact me now on 01288 381265 or c.darwin@virgin.net."

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

Music for a summer night in Ystradowen

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

RIGHT (left to right): John Philips, Shena Sarjeant, Carol Philips, Trevor Roberts and Sue Squire.

A VALE church has received more than £1,000 after a musical evening featuring two piano virtuosos.

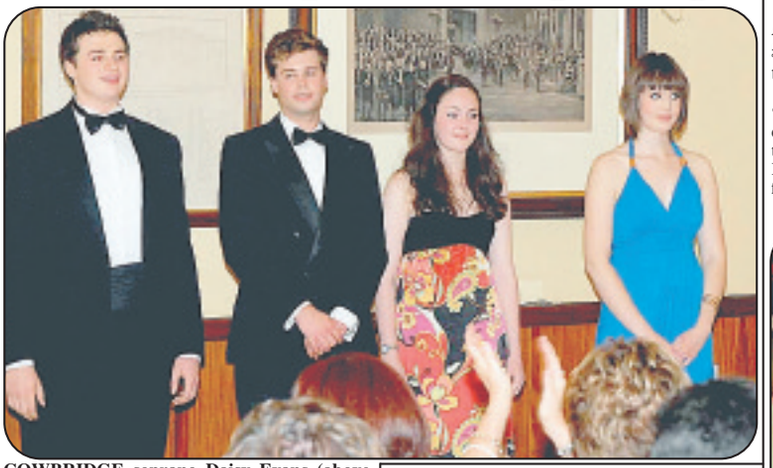
The weather did not live up to the title of 'summer music', but not even the rain could dampen the enthusiasm of the audiences at the two evenings when Carol Philips and Trevor Roberts – the Ash Hall Duo – gave brilliant performances at their two grand pianos.

The music was performed in the drawing room of Ash Hall, and during the intervals, refreshments and wine were served.

The church fundraising evening was organised by Sue Squire and Shena Sarjeant, wardens of St Owain's Church, Ystradowen, and they offered their thanks to John And Carol Philips for allowing the two events to take place in their home.

The total amount raised on the Tuesday and Friday was more than £1,000.

Daisy brings her friends home for special singalong!



COWBRIDGE soprano Daisy Evans (above, third left) will be performing opera and popular classics with fellow music students this Friday at Holy Cross Church.

Also taking part are tenor Adam Gilbert, baritone Josh Mills, and mezzo-soprano Bethan Langford (pictured) accompanied by Bryan Davies. The proceeds will go towards funding the performers' further study at the Guildhall school of music in London.

You can now find us online at: www.cowbridge-today.co.uk

Peterston pupils say farewell by performing a final play!

PICTURES by IAN DIXON

THE year-6 pupils at Peterston-super-Ely Junior School put on a two-hour 'leavers' show' before breaking up for the holidays.

Each pupil was then presented with a certificate and a dictionary.

The school relay teams received medals they had won at the Vale Primary School Championships, held in the International Athletics Stadium at Leckwith.

Valeways 'Welsh walkers' enjoy the west Wales coastal path

VALEWAYS 'Welsh walkers' recently escaped to Pembrokeshire for their first away trip to walk the coastal path and practise their Welsh.

They were based at Hamilton Lodge in Fishguard.

The walkers tackled a 7.5-mile circular of stunning Strumble Head, famous as a spot for watching seabirds and marine life.

An estimated four-hour walk took much longer, thanks to the outstanding scenery and the many stops at the coves and viewpoints.

The shorter walk the next day took in Dinas Head from Pwllgwaelod to Cwm yr Eglwys, and then a dramatic steady climb to the highpoint.

Walks for Welsh language learners, speakers or aspiring learners are taking place monthly across the Vale with the support of Let's Walk Cymru.

For further information, contact Valeways on 01446 749000 www.valeways.org.uk

RIGHT:* *The walkers at Carreg Wastad Point

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Community council

THERE will be no meeting of the Llangan Community Council this month, due to the annual holidays.

A few points of interest: the council has now received a total of 22 applications for allotment plots at the former tennis court in Treoes.

There are still a few details to be ironed out.

However, congratulations should go to Coun Mordecai for his efforts in bringing this proposed scheme to fruition.

Fferm Goch

IT seems the seats situated on the green at Fferm Goch are badly in need of a spot of paint.

Instead of waiting for the Vale Council to perform the task, I would estimate there are at least a dozen able-bodied males who could purchase a can of paint and get on and paint the seats.

Job done!

‘Achievement’ awards ceremony is held at South Wales Police HQ

A TOTAL of 51 officers and staff from the newly-formed basic command unit of South Wales Police, together with a member of the police’s dog section and two officers from the British Transport Police, had their achievements officially recognised by their peers at a special awards evening held in at Bridgend HQ on July 23.

Police Officers were commended for exceptional courage, professionalism, dedication and diligence when confronted by a number of challenging situations.

Divisional Commander for the new Central Division, Acting Chief Superintendent Liane James, said: “Policing is an extremely demanding, but rewarding occupation for both officers and police staff.

“The commendation ceremony gave us all an opportunity to recognise the exceptionally high standards of work achieved across the breadth of policing activity.”

Among those who received commendations were: An off duty police constable who spotted drug dealers operating in the centre of Bridgend. The officer called for assistance and helped in the subsequent arrest of two people.

A team made up of a detective sergeant, a PCSO and three police constables which successfully brought to justice a team of professional shoplifters operating in Penarth.

Three police officers and a PCSO who attended the scene of an attempted suicide in Barry and by administering CPR and first aid gave the victim the chance of survival until attendance by the paramedics – the victim survived the attempt.

The investigation team, including two officers from British Transport Police, which dealt with the enquiry into the murder of Ryan Edwards in Bridgend, and whose efforts were crucial in ensuring those responsible were brought to justice.

It was not just police officers who were recognised for their efforts at the ceremony.

A neighbourhood volunteer who has shown exceptional commitment and enthusiasm to the role, working alongside officers and staff within the community safety department in Barry, and a secretary in Bridgend was also commended for 40 years of loyal and dedicated service to South Wales Police.

AWARD WINNER: PC Darran Fenton of Barry police.

AWARD WINNER: PCSO Robert Miller of Barry police.

AWARD WINNER: PC Mark Ashill serves in the Vale.

PACT MEETINGS IN THE VALE

***ST BRIDES** PACT, St Brides Major Church Hall, August 5, 6pm.*
***GIBBONSDOWN** PACT, Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close, August 10, 2pm.*
***COWBRIDGE** coffee and chat meeting, The Bush Inn, St Hilary, August 11, 11am.*
***LLANDOW/EWENNY** PACT, Ewenny Village Hall, August 19, 7pm.*
***CRIME PREVENTION DAY**, Victoria Square, Penarth, August 22, 11.30am-3.30pm.*

*If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local neighbourhood policing, or log onto **www.ourbobby.com***

VALE HIT BY A TORNADO!

It seems that our readers have an endless fascination with steam trains...

After The GEM reported that the new £3 million Peppercorn class A1 Pacific Steam Locomotive No. 60163 ‘Tornado’ (named after the RAF Fighter Plane), was passing through the Vale, all good vantage points were packed.

The Tornado pulled the Southampton to Carmarthen ‘Pathfinder’ Express, on a return journey.

One local railway enthusiast said: “The number of people who came out to see the train was amazing. In fact, despite a warning printed in The GEM, there were a number of points where people were standing too close to the track.”

The photograph (right) was taken by Mike Baker as the train passed near Pendoylan.

Assembly’s £587,000 new funding for hospices

THREE local hospices are to receive £587,000 of Welsh Assembly Government funding, Health Minister Edwina Hart announced last week.

It will be invested in services at the Marie Curie Holme Tower hospice in Penarth, George Thomas Hospice Care in Cardiff and Ty Hafan children’s hospice in Sully – as part of a £4million investment in hospices and palliative care services across Wales.

Part of the funding will be dedicated to expansion of the Cancer Network Information System Cymru, a computerised clinical record to enable health professionals quick access to key information to monitor and care for patients.

Edwina Hart said: “For people with progressive and life threatening conditions, good quality palliative care services are vital.

“I wish to ensure that the level of care provided, at what is a very distressing time, is the very best possible and people have access to services consistently across Wales.”

The local funding will be shared out as follows: Holme Tower (Penarth) – £342,000; George Thomas Hospice Care (Cardiff) – £135,000 ; Ty Hafan children’s hospice (Sully) – £110,000.

‘Time to webcast council meetings’ – says a councillor

A LABOUR councillor wants the Vale to be the first council in Wales to put webcasts of all its meetings on its website.

Coun Rob Curtis says the move would allow residents to see at first hand the work their councillors are carrying out for them.

Many councils in England have already opened up their meetings to such public scrutiny.

Coun Curtis has requested that council officers produce a report outlining the costs, advantages and disadvantages of introducing such a policy.

The Gibbonsdown councillor explained: “The webcasting of all our meetings would open up the workings of the local council for all to see at a time and place that is suitable for them.

“It will allow residents to see whether their councillors are attending and standing up for their concerns.

“Residents who live in isolated communities will, in effect, be able to be present at our meetings, without having to make the journey – especially during the long, cold nights of winter.

“Or, if it is inconvenient to watch the proceedings live, they can log onto the recordings of the meetings whenever and wherever it suits them.”

Coun Curtis added: “Promoting democratic involvement in the decision-making process should be a priority for all councils.

“Webcasting our meetings will give us the potential of reaching large numbers of people both across the Vale and nationwide, making us accountable and transparent to anyone who wishes to find out what their councillors are really up to!”

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from CARDIFF & PENARTH

From CARDIFF join Bus connections for Penarth Pier – Service 93a departs Central Station (Stand E2) 45mins before ship departs & meets ship on return. Bus Fares to be paid on board Penarth Pier is 20miles from M4 Junction 33. On street Car Parking.

WESTON: VISIT SEA-LIFE
FRIDAY AUG 7 Leave 10am back 9.15pm
FRIDAY AUG 21 Leave 10am back 9.30pm
Enjoy a trip to the seaside at Weston-Super-Mare £19.95. Include an exciting visit to the fascinating Sea-Life Centre –inclusive fare £25

HOLM ISLANDS CRUISE
FRIDAY AUG 7 Leave 10am back 5.15pm
FRIDAY AUG 21 Leave 10am back 5.30pm
SATURDAY AUG 29 Leave 12.30pm back 6pm
Visit Clevedon & enjoy a cruise of the Horn Islands £19 SC £17 On Aug 29 Special Bank Holiday Fares - Clevedon £15; Holm Islands £19

EVENING CRUISE
FRIDAY AUG 7 Leave 5.15pm back 9.15pm
FRIDAY AUG 21 Leave 5.30pm back 9.30pm
Enjoy a peaceful evening cruise viewing the Somerset Coast sailing to Weston Bay £15 SC £13

ILFRACOMBE
Atlantic & Exmoor Coast
SATURDAYS AUG 8 & 22 Leave 11am back 8pm
SUNDAYS AUG 9 & 23 Leave 12.15pm back 8pm
TUESDAY AUG 11 Leave 9.30am back 8pm
THURSDAY AUG 20 Leave 9am back 7.45pm
Day trip to Glorious Devon - see the spectacular Exmoor Coast & visit Ilfracombe £27 On Aug 9 you can stay aboard & enjoy the cruise westwards from Ilfracombe along Atlantic Coast £33 On Aug 11 & 20 stay aboard for the afternoon cruise exploring the National Trust Coast of Exmoor £33 Seniors special fare on weekdays to Ilfracombe £25 Aug 11 - inclusive coach return from Porthcawl

WATERMOUTH CASTLE FAMILY THEME PARK
TUESDAY AUG 11 Leave 9.30am back 8pm
FRIDAY AUG 28 Leave 10.15am back 9.30pm
A wonderful family day out! Sail to Ilfracombe to visit a Castle & theme park amid spectacular scenery of Devon Coast. See Magnificent Gardens: Bumper Boats: Rides & Adventure Land: Dungeons: Gnome Land: All-our-Yesterdays Museum. Inclusive fare (no extras to pay) for your great day is only £31 Aug 11 return by inclusive coach from Porthcawl

EXPLORE SOMERSET BY STEAM RAILWAY
THURSDAY AUG 20 Leave 9am back 7.45pm
Cruise to Clevedon and join the West Somerset Railway. Pick up a timetable on board and enjoy a day aboard the historic steam & diesel locomotives, exploring the countryside and stations along the 20mile railway. Cruise home from Minehead £35

MINEHEAD • 40 MILE STEAM RAILWAY • BUTLINS
THURSDAY AUG 27 Leave 10am back 8.45pm
Visit Minehead -take a coach tour over Exmoor and cruise home from Ilfracombe £21 Or cruise to Minehead and join the GWR for a 40-mile steam train trip through the Somerset Countryside and 9 charming stations. Enjoy a Minehead – Exmoor coach tour and cruise home from Ilfracombe £35 Or cruise to Minehead and enjoy a Family Fun Day out at Butlins – all inclusive fare £35

LUNDY ISLAND • ILFRACOMBE • L&B RAILWAY
FRIDAY AUG 28 Leave 10.15am back 9.30pm
Visit Ilfracombe £27 SC £25 Or view the Exmoor Coast & visit Lundy Island. Explore this enchanting National Trust island with spectacular views, seabirds, Church of St. Helena & Marisco Tavern - Inclusive fare £38.95 Or enjoy a trip aboard the Lynton & Barnstaple narrow gauge Railway in North Devon & visit Lynmouth – inclusive fare £39

3 RIVERS & 5 BRIDGES • BRISTOL CITY TOUR
SUNDAY AUG 30 Leave 11.30am back 6.45pm
Visit Clevedon £15. Cruise on the River Avon sailing through the spectacular Avon Gorge and on the “calm waters” of Rivers Severn and Wye & sail under the spectacular Severn Bridges £25. Or enjoy an open top Bus Tour of Bristol’s historic sites – inclusive fare £29

RIVER AVON & SOMERSET COAST • BRISTOL CITY TOUR
TUESDAY SEPT 1 Leave 1.30pm back 7.45pm
Visit Clevedon £15. Or enjoy a cruise up River Avon & through the spectacular Avon Gorge - under the Clifton Suspension Bridge before enjoying a cruise along the somerset Coast £23 SC £21. Or enjoy an open top Bus Tour of Bristol’s historic sites – inclusive fare £29

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Barry Romilly lose to Llandaff

BARRY Romilly Bowling Club travelled to Llandaff fields for their Division One match on Saturday against Llandaff Bowling Club.

After overnight and morning rain, the sun made an appearance and bowling conditions were good. However, Romilly were disappointed to come away with just two points, and lost the aggregate 84-88.

Alan Bryan’s rink of R Hewitson, A Burge and J Jones were the Romilly hot shots. They led from start to finish, winning their rink 31-16. Skip Alan was pleased with this win and full of praise for his team’s efforts.

Tony Freeman’s rink of C Collins, W Hewitt and G Eastment had a tough match, with their opponents always in front.

However, the game changed somewhat when the Romilly boys scored a very big seven on the 16th end to create a tight finish.

The scores were 26-26 after 20 ends, and Romilly were holding two shots on the last end, only for the Llandaff skip to move the jack and score a single to win the rink 26-27.

Dave Wright’s rink of H Jones, C Geen and G Cogbill also had a tough game. They led 7-0 after four ends, when it became a catch-up game with the Llandaff back two leading the way, going on to win 19-20.

Brian Foscolo’s rink of M Newman, M Doyle and M Gershenson had a nightmare of a game, a scenario not seen too often. The Llandaff players stepped up their game after the tea break and went on to win the rink 25-8.

RH

VALE AM’s SURGERY

VALE AM ***Jane Hutt will be holding a constituency surgery on Saturday, August 8, between 10am-12noon at her constituency office, 115 High Street, Barry.***

No appointments are necessary.

GOOD NEWS FOR HISTORIC BUILDING

Dyffryn House to benefit from £50,000 grant aid

THE Heritage Minister, Alun Ffred Jones, has visited Dyffryn House and Gardens in the Vale to announce that more than £900,000 is to be shared among 22 of Wales' most important historic buildings.

Dyffryn House is one of the grant recipients and has been offered a sum of £50,000 to repair and refurbish the house's principal rooms.

Noted for its fine interiors, Dyffryn House is set in the heart of the Grade I-listed Edwardian Dyffryn Gardens, which are open to the public throughout the summer.

The Welsh Assembly Government grants, ranging from £3,600 to £125,000, have been provided to carry out essential repairs and restoration work to buildings across Wales.

The Minister said: "I am delighted to visit Dyffryn House and Gardens to offer these grants for historic building repairs.

"The grants, which are for a wide range of historic buildings, including many of the fine churches of Wales, will ensure that some of our most important buildings are restored and maintained for the enjoyment of future generations.

"Dyffryn House makes a wonderful backdrop to the gardens which are enjoyed by 50,000 visitors each year. I hope that the grant will help with the long term aspiration of opening Dyffryn House for visitors to enjoy its splendour."

Coun Rhodri Traherne, Vale cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, said: "Having the support from Cadw to progress our ambitious plans for the restoration and reuse of this outstanding period house is of great significance.

"Following the council's commitment to the repairs of the exterior, which have recently been completed, the grant will greatly benefit our proposals to repair the interiors and bring forward public use and access to this fine building."

Stephen Parker, of The Friends of Dyffryn Gardens, said: "This is exciting news and serves to underline both the Welsh Assembly's commitment to restoring the fine interiors of Dyffryn House, and to the long-term plan towards finally re-opening the house to visitors.

"Dyffryn House is an integral part of the magnificent gardens at Dyffryn and to see this long-term commitment to opening the house to the public is a very welcome development, and underlines the importance of Dyffryn Gardens as a major visitor attraction in the area."

Moonlight stroll for charity!

THE British Deaf Association Wales (BDA Wales) is organising a sponsored walk with a difference – a midnight meander along Swansea Bay!

The Swansea Bay Deaf Lamp Walk is at 11pm, on Saturday, August 15, and will finish at approximately 1am. It starts in the car park of Swansea Civic Centre (County Hall).

Paul Leonard, fundraising manager at BDA said: "There is a desperate need in Wales to expand the current provision of British Sign Language, which is the third official language of the UK".

Baruc Art Group is 35 years of age!

THE Baruc Art Group is the longest-running art group in Wales.

Members meet every Friday morning at Windsor Road Church Hall in Barry, from 10 am.

The group has been meeting for 35 years in September, and this year it is presenting a special exhibition of members' work.

This will take place on August 14-15 between 10am-4pm.

Original works of art will be on display for purchase at very reasonable prices to suit all tastes. Light refreshments will also be provided, a spokeswoman said.

"Many of the artists will be available to answer any questions, and new members are always welcome."

Contact the secretary, Ms Julie Binding on 01446 736828 for further details of the event or membership.

CUTBACKS ARE ON THE CARDS AS...

Vale Council finance chief warns of 'tough times ahead'

THE VALE Council has been warned that setting a budget for the next two financial years (2010/11 and 2011/12) will involve major cutbacks .

Over those two years, the council may have to find savings totalling £10.4 million, as the flow of cash from Westminster via the Assembly is set to fall for all 22 councils in Wales by £216 million.

The director of finance, ICT and property at the Vale Council, Sian Davies, in a report issued last week, says the Vale's share of these cuts will add up to £10.4 million.

In the report, she says that the council must cut £5.8 million from the 2010/11 budget, and then 4.6 million from the 2011/12 budget.

However, she makes the point that some of the calculations are based on estimates, because final figures still have to be confirmed by the Assembly.

She goes on to say "This lack of certainty as to the level of future settlements is wholly insufficient for forward planning purposes."

However, assuming that the information on the projected cuts is accurate, a 'must-cut' list has been drawn up for different Vale Council directorates.

The biggest loser is Learning and Development, where more than £3 million needs to be cut over the two years. The cut demanded in 2010/11 is £1.54 million, and in 2011/12, it is £1.52 million.

This represents a 1.7 per cent fall in its budget.

Heavy cuts are also demanded at social services and at environmental and economic regeneration. The social services budget is set to be slashed by £1.5 million in the first year, and by £725,000 in the second, in a 2.8 per cent overall cut.

At environmental and economic regeneration, £945,000 must be cut in 2010/11, while £1.235 million must go the following year. This amounts to a 4.7 per cent cut.

Two other areas have to find more than a million in savings over the two years. First, corporate services is being asked to take a 5.4 per cent cut, amounting to £1.31 million, spread over those two years.

Finally, there is the category entitled 'council-wide savings' which is being asked to absorb an identical of £1.31 million.

Latest cases from the Vale Magistrates Court

JOHN ALAN PARTRIDGE (41) of Holland Way, Barry, admitted damaging a communal door belonging to Vale of Glamorgan Housing Association.

He also admitted shoplifting, stealing a coat from Kids Corner in Holton Road.

Magistrates ordered a 12-month conditional discharge and told him to pay £65 prosecution costs.

ADAM MULES (28) of Claude Road, Cardiff, admitted possession of heroin, a Class A drug, in Penarth on July 20.

He was fined £85 and the drugs will be destroyed.

ADAM EVAN JONES (21) of Carne Court, Boverton, Llantwit Major, admitted assault occasioning actual bodily harm on May 5.

Magistrates ordered a community order, and 150 hours of unpaid work must be carried out within 12 months.

He must also pay compensation to the victim of £150.

LEANNE BOARD (27) of Windemere Square, Old Barn, Newport, admitted being in possession of cocaine, a Class A drug, in Barry on August 29, 2008.

She was given a conditional discharge for 12 months and the drug is to be destroyed.

NADIA CHICK (35) of Hill Terrace, Penarth, admitted possession with intent to supply a Class B drug – amphetamine.

She also admitted possession of amphetamine and possession of cannabis, a Class B drug.

Magistrates told her she will be subject to a community order, and must complete 80 hours of unpaid work within 12 months.

She must pay £50 prosecution costs, and the drugs will be destroyed.

MARK ANTHONY DAVIES (34) of Park Crescent, Barry, admitted obstructing a constable in the execution of his duty and using threatening behaviour, leading people to believe violence might be used against them.

He was given a community order, and is subject to a three-month curfew.

WAYNE SHERLOCK (19) of Robins Lane, Barry, admitted drink driving on Somerset Road on July 18.

The court heard a breath sample showed 56 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

He was banned from driving for 12 months and fined £200.

If he completes a course, the ban can be reduced by three months.

ANTHONY JAMES CLAYPOLE (27) of Hayes Road, Sully, admitted damaging a car.

He was given a community order and told to pay the victim £450.

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

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NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Walking – and gardening – on a trek in the Vale

RECENTLY, Barbara had to cancel her planned walk to the Dyffryn Crawnon horseshoe following an injury to her foot, which is mending.

However, quick as a flash, a very shrewd Rachel stepped into the breach with a call to those who had nothing better to do – to accompany her on a recce in the lovely Vale.

Bring some secateurs was the cry, as the recent heat and rainfall has seen the vegetation almost grow before your very eyes and this was her chance to have help in clearing footpaths before her walk planned for later in August.

Nine walkers answered the call complete with sticks and secateurs, as requested, and setting off from the Barry Waterfront, they made their way to the small hamlet of City, near Llansannor.

Going northwards past a disused quarry, they turned west, making their way along pathways through Gelli-goll and the woods behind Rectory Farm. These are paths that have been inaccessible for years, but having been cleared it is pure pleasure to be able to walk them!

Some road-walking led to Isycoed Farm (where there is a new diversion going around the farm instead of through it) and then across fields to rejoin the lane leading to Graig Penllyn. Following the topmost lane, they stopped for morning coffee on a verge before tramping on to Vistla Farm.

ABOVE: Secateurs at the ready.

A sunken track led them down to Penllyn village and they followed the road towards the Red Fox Inn, en route passing Dr Salmon's Wells. There are three wells, two of which are original and supported the village during times of drought.

Having fallen into disrepair at the end of the 19th century, Dr Salmon of Penllyn Court paid for their repair and a third well was dug. After piped water was introduced to the area, they were badly neglected in the 1930s and became overgrown and derelict. However, as part of the Millennium celebrations in 2000, they were restored.

Turning away from the village, the group dropped down past another disused quarry and followed part of the Valeways Millennium Trail, adjacent to Coed y Stanby, and met another path diversion, bypassing a garden further along.

They crossed a road and made their way up through a field and a wooded valley at Graig before turning west at the top and making their way back to City.

The forecasted showers never came, the day was bright, warm and sunny and clearing pathways as they walked made for fun and plenty of laughter.

On August 8, meet at Llantwit Major railway station in plenty of time to catch the 9.22am train to Bridgend for the 13.5-mile moderate walk back to Llantwit, overland and via beaches and the coastal path; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On August 13, the last of the summer evening walks will leave Penarth cliff top car park at 7pm for a four-mile easy circular walk to Lavernock Nature Reserve; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots, and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Avoiding the mud at the Royal Welsh...

MEMBERS of Porthcawl's Adventurers Club, run by Carol and Phillip George, visited the Royal Welsh Show at Builth Wells.

The party left Porthcawl basking in sunshine to brave the mud and rain of the show ground at Llanelwedd.

Nevertheless, suitably equipped with wellies and brollies, members thoroughly enjoyed their day out at Wales' premier agricultural Show.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

ABOVE: Mrs Kate Thomas CVO JP, Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan and president of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, with Carol and Phillip George.

ABOVE: Always an attraction, a Gloucestershire Old Spots sow with her litter of nine piglets born on July 4.

ABOVE: Margaret spotted Welsh rugby legend Gerald Davies and grabbed a photo to take home to her grandson.

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'Political baggage' that comes with membership of EU

PROBABLY no-one would sniff at a European market of 500 million customers (although the rest of the world is much bigger).

This was, after all, how the Common Market was sold to us originally. Sadly, Mr. Heath forgot to mention the political baggage which would come with membership.

This is what he said: "There are some in this country who fear that, in going into Europe, we shall in some way sacrifice independence and sovereignty. These fears, I need hardly say, are completely unjustified."

To the extent that he and the contemporary European leaders knew that this was untrue, our whole membership of what is now the European Union is based on what we might, if feeling charitable, call a misrepresentation.

If the EU restricted itself to providing a common market and to cross border matters, fair enough, but what have the following to do with either of these? – rural Post Office closures, fortnightly bin collections, the aggravation of trying to open a bank account, home information packs, vitamin supplements, booster car seats for 12-year-olds, banning bent (or straight) cucumbers and forked carrots? These were all instigated by Brussels.

As I understand it, only the (unelected) Commission can propose EU legislation. Whether the percentage of our laws coming from Brussels is 80, 40 or anything else, the underlying question is "Who asked their opinion anyway?"

I tried once to find the answer to this question, in relation to banning mercury in barometers. After much correspondence, the best I obtained was the following from one Klaus Berend: "It is not possible to attribute the idea to one individual person or event."

So it seems that we are governed by laws initiated by anonymous members of an unelected body. And what is the difference between laws and regulations? Can regulations be ignored? I don't think so.

Among the minor concessions which we have made are those on immigration, and what used to be our fishing industry, given away to be wrecked by the EU. Iceland, if you want to join, watch out!

Finally, there is the utter cynicism of this organisation and its acolytes. They tell the Irish to vote and vote again until they give the correct answer, and break their promise to us because they are afraid of the result.

Meanwhile, they carry on implementing the Lisbon whateveritis as though they had won.

The EU's disgraceful finances, and how we have become supplicants for our own money, would be the subject of a letter on their own.

RH Bradshaw, Cowbridge

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ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

LAST month, I issued a statement on how education is supporting the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development and Climate Change agenda.

In education, our responsibilities range from the way we design and manage our buildings (schools, colleges and universities), to the education and skills that we offer to our children and young people – and, indeed, learners of all ages.

One of the most important committees I attend as Education Minister is the climate change cabinet committee, where Ministers contribute directly to this priority area, so critical to our responsibilities in helping to deliver the annual three per cent carbon reductions we have set as a Government.

The UK Climate Projections 2009, released in June, projected that some climate change is inevitable due to past greenhouse gas emissions. We need to plan and prepare for this, to increase our resilience and minimise our risk.

In combating climate change, we recognise the importance of improved energy efficiency in our education buildings. The money we put into new school buildings, and refurbishing older buildings, must incorporate basic energy efficiency measures, as well as introducing or using renewable energy technologies.

All new school and college buildings which we fund must meet the BREEM Excellent standard for environmental effectiveness.

The Eco Schools programme, so popular in our Vale schools, helps to drive the energy efficiency agenda and engage our children in the educational awareness and understanding of their environment.

Leadership by our young 'eco champions' is a powerful force in changing behaviour at home as well as school, as pupils grasp the message and the challenges with their families and in the country.

At the earliest educational opportunity, we are placing a greater emphasis on using the outdoors to enhance children's learning.

The introduction of the Foundation Phase for 3-7 year olds has already made an impact as we move into the second year of implementation this September.

Children gain their most powerful understanding of their natural environment through exploring it for themselves, making issues such as climate change more relevant and understandable.

It can also help them understand how natural material can be used as a renewable resource, such as wind and water, and help inform them about the steps we can take to live life sustainably.

This follows through their school careers with curriculum for sustainable development and global citizenship and the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Education has an important role to play in promoting relevant research and we have made the low carbon economy a key priority in funding reach and development programmes in Wales.

We are investing in research on the impact of climate change and bio energy on sustainable agriculture and bio-fuels, relevant to our farming community in the Vale.

We have funded the Low Carbon Research Institute with work on low carbon energy generation, storage and distribution, and the Energy Graduate School and other key priorities, such as energy demand reduction including achieving zero-carbon built environment.

Finally, education is a key part of the Green Jobs Strategy helping to support businesses in developing a low-carbon, low-waste economy.

We need to support businesses by providing them with people with the right skills to make this happen, with appropriate training, qualifications and accreditation for green jobs to support green businesses as we all move in this direction.

There is a strong partnership in Wales, from our youngest pupils to our most successful businesses, backed by the Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities at the forefront of making this happen.

Town centre road changes planned

A SCHEME to introduce improved traffic management and increased on-street parking in Penarth town centre was approved by the Vale Council's cabinet on July 29.

Coun Gordon Kemp, Leader of the Council, said: "The proposals are very similar to those that formed the basis for the bid to the Welsh Assembly Government for urban renewal funding three years ago.

"Although that bid was unsuccessful, it was accepted that the details of the bid would form the basis of improvements in Penarth, as and when funds became available.

Those proposals received overwhelming support from residents, traders and visitors alike."

He continued: "Council funds have now been identified for this financial year to allow the introduction of traffic regulation orders, to create new one-way systems in parts of Arcot Street and Glebe Street, to complement the existing systems operating in Ludlow Street and Ludlow Lane.

"Additional controlled parking for both residents and shoppers will be provided, as well as enhanced provision for goods vehicle loading bays, additional disabled drivers' parking spaces, motor cycle parking bays and cycle stands."

The Vale Council's planning committee on July 30 approved the giving of public notice for the scheme, and detailed information on the proposals will be announced shortly.

A period of 21 days will then be available for comments to be made following the publication of the notice.

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PENARTH TURNS OUT TO SHOW ITS SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF MARIE CURIE HOSPICE

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

ON August 1, the Marie Curie hospice Penarth's annual garden party and fete took place, with staff and fundraisers being joined by visitors from all parts of the area.

It was opened at 12.30pm by Lorraine Barratt AM, a patron of the hospice.

The hospice's fundraising manager, Karen Jones, told The GEM: "There was some rain at the beginning, but we decided to go ahead with the event because people had put in so much effort.

"As the day went on, it brightened up and people still came, so it was a success.

"A total of £2,580 has been raised so far, but there is more to come," she reported.

Diseased tortoises lead to five-year ban for Llantwit animal importer

A Llantwit Major man who sold tortoises over the internet was sentenced on Tuesday (August 4) for animal cruelty offences relating to 151 of the creatures.

Ian Crosby, aged 48, admitted seven charges under the Animal Welfare Act, which also related to five iguanas in his possession, the local authority prosecuting him said.

Crosby imported tortoises from Prague in the Czech republic, but one batch was suffering from herpes, which spread among the other animals because of the environment they were kept in.

Inspectors from the Vale Council, which brought the court case against him, also found tortoises clambering over each other to get to the heat from the one lamp that was turned on in their pen.

The iguanas were found to be so close to the lamp in their vivarium they were at serious risk of suffering burns. They had no access to water either.

He admitted allowing the animals to suffer unnecessarily, and to not taking reasonable steps to ensure their needs were met.

He also admitted failing to provide suitable environments for animals in his care.

Vale magistrates gave him a four-month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

He will be supervised for 12 months and must carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

He was also banned from keeping animals for five years.

A council spokeswoman said: "In 2008, the Vale Council received complaints over the health of animals Mr Crosby was selling via his internet business.

"The decision to prosecute Mr Crosby was made following a comprehensive investigation by licensing officers, during which information was received from eminent veterinary practitioners who, due to the severity of this case, needed to seek permission from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to breach client confidentiality.

"This was a national case in which the council had to respond to complaints from all over the country.

"The council is pleased with the outcome of this case and the sentence imposed by the court reflects the seriousness of the charges brought against Mr Crosby."

Glenbrook's fun day for Welsh troops

THE Glenbrook Inn, Barry, is holding a family fun day this Saturday, August 8, on behalf of the Welsh Guards Fund.

The proceeds from the day will go to help injured soldiers returning from war.

There will be face painting, games, a cake stall, a bouncy castle, tug-of-war, hook-a-duck, a raffle and lots more.

A spokesman said: "The fun starts at 1.30pm and everybody is welcome."

Cowbridge garden inspires local artists

AN exhibition of flower painting by a small group of volunteers from the Cowbridge Physic Garden will be on display in Cowbridge Library throughout the month of August.

The members of the group are all 'beginners' whose enthusiasm has been guided, in informal sessions, by fellow volunteer and botanic artist Gillian Griffiths.

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

Bees need night snacks

AUGUST is now upon us, and to the beekeeper it heralds the slowing down of the season.

In fact, the season has been on hold for most of July, thanks to the incessant rain.

The bees have managed to get out foraging on some of the days of July, but very little in the way of nectar has been collected.

Stores within the hive are being consumed, and the beekeeper must keep an eye on things and supply a liquid feed where required.

To prepare a liquid feed, take a 2lb bag of sugar (1kilo) and add to it one pint of water.

Yes, I know we have now gone metric, but I am a little long in the tooth and remember the old measures.

Anyway, back to the feeding; it must be stressed that white refined sugar must be used, as opposed to natural cane sugar.

The use of cane sugar would give the bees a form of dysentery.

Strange, I know, but there you have it – warm water is the norm but cold will do as the sugar will dissolve eventually.

Today's plastic lemonade bottles make excellent containers for the liquid sugar.

Giving the feed to the bees is simple enough: remove the hive roof, then a watertight wooden box that has the same dimensions as the hive is put on top.

Some two inches from one end of the box, there is a divider which separates the bees from the liquid sugar, and a slot in the ensuing space gives them the ability to access the feed as they need it.

Before I put in the liquid, a good layer of grass is added and this gives the bees a surface to walk upon, so preventing them drowning in the liquid.

The roof is replaced, and the bees left to get on with it.

Feeding should only be done in the evening when the bees are settled for the night.

To do this during the day would mean that every hive in the vicinity would detect the feed, and you would be besieged by the occupants of every hive around you.

So, for the good of the Apiary and yourself, feeding at night is the best option.

I myself have been feeding all my hives for the past two weeks.

In particular, the two nucleus hives and the swarm, are doing very well.

I want them in top condition to face the coming winter.

Most of the bees which will be raised now will be the longest lived and will carry the hive through the winter.

As ever, the Varroa mite is still with us and their control and treatment will be next month's subject.

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A SURPRISE FOR PETER AS HISTORIC PLAQUE IS UNVEILED TO....HIMSELF!

ABOVE: The unveiling of the plaque to Bridgend butcher Bernard Oakes.

ABOVE: Bridgend Town Mayor, Coun Mervyn Lewis with a surprised Peter Wood.

ABOVE: Peter Wood's plaque.

PHOTOGRAPHS by TIM WOOD

TWO plaques to well-known Bridgend butchers have been unveiled at the entrance to Bridgend market.

The first was placed in memory of veteran butcher Bernard Oakes, who had a stall in the market from 1937 until his death at the age of 87 in 2007.

Mr Oakes was in the old market until it closed in 1972, and was replaced with the present market in the Rhiw centre.

"Bernard was 72 years in the market – a record I feel sure nobody else will be able to beat," said fellow butcher Peter Wood.

"He was helped by his sons Robert and David, and later by his grand-daughter Carol but for a lot of the time he was on his own."

Mr Oakes was raised at Rhydygleddyn Farm in Llanharan, where he lived all his life. In the early days, he raised his own animals for meat.

Mr Wood said that the market traders collected money for flowers for his funeral, and it was decided to pay for a plaque in his memory with what remained.

A ceremony took place at the market when the plaque was unveiled by Bridgend borough deputy mayor Colin Teesdale.

However, there was a surprise for Mr Wood when, a few days later, a second plaque appeared at the entrance – to himself.

"It was put up to mark my 50 years as a butcher," he said.

"I went into the market in 1968 – next door to Bernard – so I have been in the market for 41 years."

This plaque was unveiled by Bridgend town mayor Coun Mervyn Lewis.

Mr Wood comes originally from Rhondda and started work in a shop there at 16. After four years, he came to work for Brewer Brothers in Adare Street in Bridgend, and then set up on his own.

He has his own two sons, Tim and Daniel, in the business and his two grand-daughters – Jade, 23, and 20-year-old Jessica also help out on the stall.

Jade has finished in university and is looking for a job, while Jessica is still a student.

Peter's wife Gail has also been fully involved in the business and still helps out. The couple moved to the Bridgend area and have lived in West Road since 1972.

Peter has been a stalwart of both Bridgend RFC and Bridgend Athletic RFC, where he is still a trustee and is a former president.

He was a committee member at Bridgend RFC for many years, and was chairman of the social club.

He is hoping that something can be done to bring top class rugby back to the area.

Peter said he was very honoured by the decision of the Markert Traders Association to erect the plaque.

"It was a complete shock," he said.

"I had been so involved in organising the ceremony for Bernard Oakes that I had no idea this was being staged as well. They sprung it on me."

His old butcher's bike has had a lick of paint and is currently on display in an empty stall at the market – although he would like it to go on permanent display somewhere in the market or at the Rhiw Centre.

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Local Cadets claim Wings Appeal trophy

ABOVE: Cadets from 372 Squadron collecting for RAFA.

RECENTLY, Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron were awarded the Rose Shaw Trophy for raising an incredible £3,500 for the RAFA's annual Wings Appeal.

The trophy is awarded to the top squadron in Wales and west region – in competition with another 150 Air Cadet Squadrons (from Wales, Merseyside, West Mercia and Staffordshire Wings).

Overall, 372 (Barry) Squadron were third in the Air Training Corps – out of 930 Air Cadet Squadrons. The Cadets came within £500 of winning the Sir Douglas Bader Trophy.

The Cadets undertook a variety of events to fundraise this superb amount of money – from bag packing, street collections, pubs and clubs collections.

The top fundraising Cadet this year was Ryan McPeake, who raised more than £220 by himself.

The Cadets annually help and support a variety of organisations including: The Royal Air Forces Association, Royal British Legion and the Barry Hospital League of Friends.

Flight Lieutenant Dave Crandon (Officer Commanding 372 Squadron) said: "I am immensely proud of the Cadets, who have worked hard to support the Royal Air Forces Association and deserve to have won this trophy.

"While 372 Squadron provide many exciting activities for the Cadets, it is great that these young men and women give something back to the community in which they live."

The Air Cadets undertake many activities, including flying, gliding, shooting, sports, adventure training, team building exercises, expeditions, visits and field craft training and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme expeditions.

The 372 Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old; parading on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm; behind Adam's Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall). Telephone the Squadron on 01446 747734, or email 372@aircadets.org for more information.

Window dressing will brighten Bridgend town

AN INNOVATIVE scheme to make the town centre in Bridgend more attractive has been dreamed up by the town council.

Members were concerned about the impact of empty shops on the street scene and, as a result, some owners have agreed to allow displays of art or photographs to be placed inside the shops.

Council leader David Unwin told the last meeting of the council that Bridgend Camera Club has now placed displays of photographs inside the old Seconds Ahead shop in Wyndham Street.

He said: "I am hoping that the art society will be involved in taking up some of the space available to display some of its members' work.

"It gives passers-by something different to look at instead of an empty shop. It's better than a blank space."

He thanked assistant clerk Hannah Lewis for her work.

Coun Bob Burns said that the council should also congratulate Coun Unwin on this initiative. He said that this scheme should be extended to cover other empty properties, and organisations like BAVO or those promoting tourism in the area could be invited to put on displays.

Coun Unwin said that pictures showing the displays were being sent to Bridgend County Borough Council's tourism department.

"It can be done for next to nothing and it will help the aesthetics in all areas," he added.

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R	R	J	R	K	L	E	F	M	C	C	N	O
T	I	O	X	E	M	V	P	L	R	M	X	N
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AVIVA 62nd WELSH SCHOOLS NATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS AT CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL SPORTS STADIUM RECORD EPIC PERFORMANCES

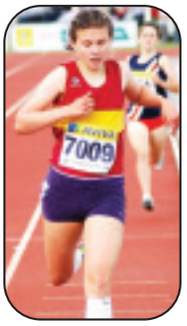
New landmark for high jumper Elinor

Report by PETER MORRIS
Photos by IAN DIXON

ELINOR LEWIS maintained her possibly unique record at the recent Aviva-sponsored, 62nd Welsh School national track and field championships.

Elinor has now competed at the fixture for four consecutive years, and has had at least a share in a pole vault best on each occasion.

Back in 2006, the then Penarth year-9 pupil set an inaugural age group best of 2.96 metres in winning the pole vault in the first year that it was held for the junior (under-15) girls.



Vicky Jackson (Barry College) winner in the senior girls 1,500 metres.

In 2007, her debut year in the middle (under-17) section, she raised the bar to a new best of 3.30 metres to again claim victory. Last year, GCSE year, was a real test of her determination and ambition.

She set a new middle best of 3.50 metres, but she was not the only girl to clear that height. Two of her rivals from north-east Wales also went clear, with that duo claiming gold and silver and Elinor having to settle for third place on countback.

All three of those competitions had been held at Penlan Arena in Brecon. This year, the Bro Morgannwg year-12 made the short journey to the recently-opened Cardiff International Sports Stadium and, despite tricky conditions and a very long competition, soared over a new best of 3.74 metres on her debut in the senior (under-20) section.

That performance not only gave her the event gold medal, and eight points in the team competition, but also a share, with middle hammer thrower Toni Wells (SE Wales), of the trophy for the outstanding field performance by a girl.

There were mixed fortunes at this event for the Vale athletes who had enjoyed medal-winning performances at the previous weekend's Welsh Schools Combined Events championships in Swansea. Senior boys' champion Curtis Mathews, who, we are happy to correct, spends much of his time training under the guidance of Barry and Vale Harriers' long serving and most experienced coach, John Hartley, at Jenner Park, had a bit of a nightmare in the long jump, finishing over a metre down on his Swansea best, and could only finish fourth in the discus.

Arran Reid (Barry Comprehensive 772) on his way to 5th place in the junior boys 200 metres.

The Barry Comprehensive sixth former did bounce back in the high jump to win with a height of 1.85 metres.

Matthew Roan (St Cyres), silver medallist in the junior section at Swansea, set a new high jump best of 1.65 metres in winning that event, but Cowbridge year-11 Oliver Trotman, the under-17 third placer, who had cleared 1.83 metres at Swansea, could only manage 1.70 metres for fifth.

On a day when Cardiff & the Vale district made the most of home advantage, and team managers, including Mrs Laura Burnett (St Richard Gwyn), worked hard to ensure that there were only a small number of events without a scoring athlete, there were three further 'Vale' victories with Vicky Jackson (Barry College) winning the senior girls' 1,500 metres, Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro Morgannwg) taking the senior 2,000 metres crown and Tom Smith (Stanwell) claiming the top spot in the junior boys' triple jump. Nineteen Vale pupils, 12 boys and seven girls, finished in the top three places to claim an individual medal.

In the team competitions, Cardiff & the Vale have been very strong in the boys' age groups for a number of years, and very weak in the girls' section. The strength at senior (under-20) and junior (under-15) boys was evident again with comfortable wins and, but for a bit of a disaster on the second change of the middle relay, that section would have provided a third trophy for the collection, but the zero points for a disqualification enabled old rivals Dyfed to snatch victory by two points.

The girls were more competitive this year, finishing in the top three in both the senior and junior sections, and that proved to be the difference.

At the end of a long day, much to the delight of athletes, parents and team managers, Cardiff & the Vale had amassed 542 points to finish ahead of Dyfed (523.5) in the quest for the Overall Points trophy, the second time in three years that they have defeated their west Wales rivals in this competition.

All the athletes who competed for Cardiff & the Vale at this fixture are due to receive their district colours medal at the track and field presentation evening, which will be held at Cardiff High School on Tuesday, September 8, starting at 7pm.

Results of Vale athletes: Senior Boys (under-20) – 100: Ht 2 (-3.5): 2 Adam Jones Stanwell 11.88; Fin (-1.2) 4 Adam Jones Stanwell 11.62; 200: (-2.1): 4 Adam Jones Stanwell 23.03; 2,000 Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight Bro Morgannwg 6:34.22; 400H: 4 Tom Williams Bro Morgannwg 1:04.9; HJ: 1 Curtis Mathews Barry 1.85; 3 Josh Hill Llantwit Major 1.75; 4 Sam Booker Llantwit Major 1.75; LJ: 4 Tom Williams Bro Morgannwg 5.78/1.4; 6 Curtis Mathews Barry 5.53/1.3; SP: 4 Matt Wilcox Cowbridge 10.46; DT: 4 Curtis Mathews Barry 31.19; HT: 4 Matt Wilcox Cowbridge 19.42; JT: 2 Josh Hill Llantwit Major 39.75; 4x100: 2 Cardiff & the Vale 44.0; 3 Cardiff & the Vale B (non scoring) 44.6.

Ayla Phillips (Llantwit), second in the senior shot and hammer.

Team: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 114.

Middle Boys (under-17) – 100: Ht 2 (-0.9): 2 Jamie Sexton St Richard Gwyn 11.53; Fin: (-1.4): 2 Jamie Sexton St Richard Gwyn 11.46; 400: Ht 2: 2 James Wiltshire St Cyres 53.17; Fin: 2 Wiltshire 50.62; 800: 5 Rhys Allin Cowbridge 2:09.03; 1,500 Sc: 4 Darren Jones Llantwit Major 5:00.80; HJ: 5 Oliver Trotman Cowbridge 1.70; PV: 7 Jake Connelly Bro Morgannwg 2.20; TJ: 3 Sam Bunkham Cowbridge 12.34; SP: 3 Ben Harding St Cyres 12.39; HT: 3 Bradley Cole St Cyres 33.69; 7 Tom Perry Bro Morgannwg 27.41; JT: 3 Scott Hewins Llantwit Major 46.38; 4x100: Cardiff & the Vale disqualified.

Team: 1 Dyfed 108; 2 Cardiff & the Vale 106; 3 South East Wales 103.

Junior Boys – 100 (-2.1): 3 Cameron Jones Stanwell 12.17; 200 (-2.4): 5 Aaron Reid Barry 24.69; 1500: 5 Matthew Edwards Barry 04:39.85; HJ: 1 Matthew Roan St Cyres 1.65; PV: 4 George Connelly Bro Morgannwg 1.90; TJ: 1 Thomas Smith Stanwell 12.12; SP: 4 Gus McPherson Cowbridge 11.54; 4x100: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 47.01.

Team: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 95; 2 Dyfed 79.

Senior Girls – 100 (1.7): 5 Heather Jarvis Cowbridge 15.81; 800: 5 Maddie Edgeworth Cowbridge 2:53.99; 1,500: 1 Victoria Jackson Barry College 4:59.22; HJ: 3 Maddie Edgeworth Cowbridge 1.25; PV: 1 Elinor Lewis Bro Morgannwg 3.74 CBP; LJ: 5 Leah Grisdale Bro Morgannwg 4.35/2.3; TJ: 4 Elinor Lewis Bro Morgannwg 9.88; SP: 2 Ayla Phillips Llantwit Major 10.06; 5 Sian Balchin Kings Monkton 9.21; DT: 4 Sian Balchin Kings Monkton 26.17; HT: 2 Ayla Phillips Llantwit Major 33.48; JT: 3 Sian Balchin Kings Monkton 28.93; 4 Ayla Phillips Llantwit Major 22.22; 4x100: 4 Cardiff & the Vale 54.42.

Team: 1 Dyfed 98; 2 Cardiff & the Vale 90.

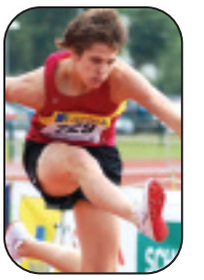
Middle Girls – 300: 3 Lauren McCarthy St Cyres 42.44; 800: 4 Eloise Laity Westbourne 2:26.49; 1,500: 4 Bethan Daw St Cyres 4:59.40; TJ: 4 Lia Thomas Bro Morgannwg 9.20.

Team: 1 South East Wales 91.5; 5 Cardiff & the Vale 80.

Junior Girls – 200: (-1.3): 5 Maisie Matthews Bro Morgannwg 27.94; 800: 5 Lucy Tarrant Llantwit Major 2:32.89; LJ: 2 Lucy Taylor Llantwit Major 4.84/1.3; JT: 5 Fern Mason Bro Morgannwg 21.57; 4x100: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 51.90.

Team: 1 Dyfed 65.5; 3 Cardiff & the Vale 57.

Overall points: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 542; 2 Dyfed 523.5; 3 South East Wales 394; 4 North East Wales 368; 5 Glamorgan Valleys 322; 6 Afan Nedd Tawe 309.5; 7 Eryri 218; 8 Powys 180.



An encouraging debut in the senior boys 400 metres hurdles for Tom Williams (Bro Morgannwg).

A safe last change from Maisie Mathews (Bro Morgannwg) to Cyndi Kitange (Mary Immaculate) in the 4x100 junior girls relay.

Curtis Mathews adds the senior high jump title to his victory in the recent Combined Events at Swansea.

Team captains Gwenno Brown (Glantaf) and Adam Jones (Stanwell) receive the Overall Points Trophy from the Welsh Schools treasurer Mr Dilwyn Davies.

The three medallists in the middle boys 100 metres – Jamie Sexton (St Richard Gwyn 2nd), Jamual Whyte (St Teilo's 1st), and Tom Cusworth (NE Wales) received their medals from the Lady Mayoress of Cardiff.

THE RED CROSS IN COWBRIDGE MARKS ALMOST 100 YEARS OF LOCAL SERVICE

THE Cowbridge Division of the British Red Cross Society, Detachment 12, has a record of service to the community which dates back to 1914.

Meetings were first held in the Institute, where Dr H Torney gave lectures in first aid; nursing techniques were also taught and regular examinations taken.

During the 1914-18 War, the detachment helped to nurse wounded soldiers at Ash Hall, Ystradowen, when the parents of one of their members, Miss Nancy Owen, opened their home for this purpose.

In February 1926, Detachment 12 were re-registered, and Mrs DC Edmondes appointed as Commandant, a post she held until the outbreak of World War Two, when she became Commandant at Dunraven Convalescent Home. She subsequently received an OBE for her services to the Red Cross.

Training in first aid, nursing and hygiene continued, with a special emphasis on anti-gas warfare. First aid and nursing duties were performed at Ogmore-by-Sea, Southerndown, local shows and point-to-point meetings.

The annual inspection took place in the town hall, the floorboards of which had to be scrubbed spotlessly clean and the premises converted into a hospital ward for the occasion.

Mrs RH Williams, who succeeded Mrs Edmondes as Commandant, was awarded the Order of Merit for Distinguished War Service, which was presented to her by Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace in 1946.

Mrs Williams organised a first aid post at the town hall which was manned on a rota system for 24 hours daily. Anti-gas lectures were given by another member of the detachment to the ambulance drivers, ARP, Home Guards and Police.

Prisoners-of-war from Cowbridge received Red Cross parcels regularly. Each one had to be packed with care and sewn up in a compulsory wrapping of unbleached calico.

Refreshments were provided for the Welsh Regiment, stationed at the old cinema, and other members of the forces stationed at Penllyn Court, Llandough Castle, St Athan and Llandow, in a marquee erected behind the town hall while, at premises in the High Street, a rest room for the relaxation of service personnel was furnished and supervised.

The detachment nursed at Dunraven Castle and helped to place evacuee children with local families. Door-to-door collections for the 'Penny-a-week' fund were made on a regular basis and help in organising Warship and Flag weeks was also given.

Training continued at the Institute until an army hut in the Broadshoard was acquired and the borough council leased the land upon which it stood.

Most of the renovations were carried out by the members themselves and the new headquarters was opened in October 1966, on a night when torrential rain caused such flooding in Cowbridge that those present had to wade home through deep water.

The following Friday, members were called out to assist at the Aberfan disaster. Some worked in the mortuary, while others rendered first aid in the playground of the devastated school.

First Aid posts for the bereaved relatives were manned and duties performed at the Rest Centre for helpers, in the cinema.

Cowbridge Division was later awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the Glamorgan Branch of the Red Cross Society for meritorious service at Aberfan.

The division has been well represented on royal occasions in Wales – members were on duty in Pontypridd Park during the Queen's tour in Coronation Year; a First Aid post was manned at Boys' Village, St Athan, when the Queen Mother paid a visit in 1962.

Some junior members formed a guard-of-honour for Princess Alexandra when, as patron of the Junior Red Cross, she attended an informal lunch at branch headquarters in Cardiff.

A representative from the detachment was chosen to perform first aid duties at Caernarvon Castle during the Investiture of the Prince of Wales, and two members attended the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Cowbridge in 1973.

More recently, junior members helped to form the guard-of-honour for the Queen's drive through Cardiff to Llandaff Cathedral for a service of thanksgiving during her Silver Jubilee tour.

Other local duties over the years have included nursing at Bridgend Hospital and the Jane Hodge home. During the nights of the Oxfam walks from Cardiff to Porthcawl, members worked from 1.30am-7.30am treating, in 1967, 700 cases.

In Porthcawl, assistance used to be given with first aid at Trecco Bay and with nursing at The Rest, Rest Bay. Present day members continue to serve the community by rendering first aid, when necessary during Cowbridge Week, at gymkhanas and at shows.

They assist in blood donor sessions and train the general public in first aid and home nursing.

The Welfare Group, which was formed in 1962 under the leadership of Mrs B Thornton, has given beauty therapy in hospitals at Bridgend and now at a special school in Pentyrch, and hopes shortly to extend the service to Ely hospital.

The detachment and Welfare Group work together to run clubs for homebound elderly people and handicapped teenagers. Help continues to be given at holiday centres for handicapped children and old people and medical aids are lent to members of the public.

Parcels were delivered to the elderly at Christmas-time. Adult patients, and children continue to be visited at Hensol and a trolley shop is run for the residents of Southways.

The Cadet Unit in Cowbridge, which caters for boys and girls between 11-years and school-leaving age, was registered in 1952, while the Link Unit, for younger children between five-11 years, was registered in 1973.

The young people are trained in elementary first aid and home nursing, infant and child care, hygiene, drill and rescue, accident prevention and safety in the home. They are encouraged to give service to others, while friendship with junior members in foreign countries is fostered.

For the past 12 months, the detachment and junior members have met and trained regularly at their temporary headquarters in Llanblethian, while the Welfare Group has been grateful for accommodation at Old Hall.

At the end of the summer, however, members will return to the Broadshoard where their headquarters have been completely re-built on their original site, thanks to the vast amount of hard work put in by professional and volunteer workers alike.

We are grateful to members, past and present, and their relatives, for the help they have given in compiling this record.

Anyone who would like to become a member of the Red Cross Society in Cowbridge is assured of a warm welcome and should telephone Olive Rawson, centre organiser, on 01446 773987. ***JW***

Bridgend rounders raises £1,200 for the Alzheimer's charity

Ty Cym Ogwr Tigers who were given the joint prize for best name and outfit.

Council Leader Mel Nott takes guard.

EMPLOYEES at Bridgend County Borough Council raised £1,200 for The Alzheimer's Society at a rounders tournament on Bridgend's Newbridge Fields.

More than 300 members of staff took part in the event, organised by the head of adult social care, Sue Cooper, who is trekking around Patagonia in November to raise money for the charity.

"I wanted to think of a way for colleagues to get involved in the fundraising and this seemed a perfect idea," she explained.

"I was overwhelmed with the response, as teams from across the council put their names forward. In fact, we had to organise eight pitches for the tournament to ensure all the teams got to play."

Staff also helped to raise money by running raffle and cake stands, and the event drew crowds of supporters who cheered on their colleagues.

Council Leader Mel Nott commented: "The event was a huge success and it was fantastic to see so many members of staff give up their own time to raise money for such a worthy cause."

Donations to the charity appeal can be made via www.justgiving.com/susancooper50

Action climb for children

TWO Bridgend woman are taking part in the Action For Children Snowdon Challenge.

Angela Fennell and Gemma Rees both work for the charity at the Brackla Meadows Family Centre in Brackla. The charity used to be known as the NCH – National Children's Home.

It helps vulnerable children, young people and families throughout its 140 national projects, and relies on donations to keep going.

The Snowdon Challenge takes place on September 26 and entails trekking up the mountain to raise money through sponsorship.

Angela and Gemma are looking for sponsorship and anyone who would like to help can do so at www.justgiving.com/angfennell-actionforchildrensnowdonchallenge2009

Porthcawl doggy day!

DOG owners are being urged to make a bee-line for Porthcawl on Saturday (August 8) when a special doggy roadshow is being staged.

The event has been organised by Porthcawl Town Council, in conjunction with the local PACT group, as part of a zero-tolerance campaign against dog fouling.

Staff from Bridgend County Borough Council will be on hand at the bandstand in John Street from 11am-1pm to give advice and hand out free doggy bags.

There will also be a mobile dog wash and grooming service.

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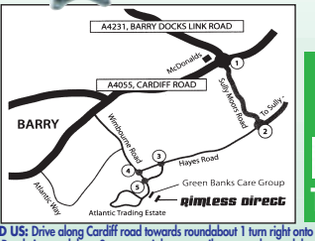

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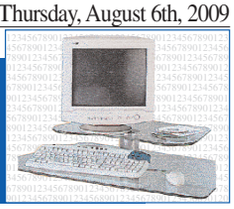
In Business Update



Care 4 Pets is providing a professional,reliable service

WHILE many businesses are struggling in the present economic climate, Care 4 Pets is thriving, and as a result has opened a new office and dog grooming salon at 120 Park Crescent, Barry.

Alison Moya, the owner, credits the success of Care 4 Pets to the high standard of care and reliability provided by the company.

Care 4 Pets, which was established nine years ago, has more than 60 pet carers offering pet home boarding, house sitting, dog walking, home visits and dog grooming.

Alison explained: "Our staff are experienced, reliable and trustworthy.

"People need to know their pet will be well cared for in their absence, and Care 4 Pets provides a professional and reliable service giving peace of mind to our clients."

ABOVE: Care 4 Pets have developed a reputation for reliability and professionalism (left to right) Kathryn Johnston, groomer, Alison Moya, owner, and Jo Greenough, office manager.

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ESTABLISHED 1999
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Deano would like to thank all his clients and customers for the support and custom over the years. It has been a pleasure to work in such a relaxed environment. As a result of this celebration Deano will be extending his opening hours.

MONDAY	-			CLOSED
TUESDAY	-	7.30 am	-	5.30 pm
WEDNESDAY	-	7.30 am	-	5.30 pm
THURSDAY	-	7.30 am	-	5.30 pm
FRIDAY	-	7.30 am	-	5.30 pm
SATURDAY	-	7.00 am	-	3.00 pm

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Our idea of offering a personalised service stems from the inherent lack of interaction that takes place in a conventional garage set-up.

IJP Autos' focus is to make the business as approachable as possible, with a relaxed but conscientious manner.

As cars are becoming ever more an extension of our homes, we understand that your car is important to you. You wouldn't let a stranger into your home, so why let one into your car?

With 25 years in the business, state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and an MOT testing licence, there is little we can't handle.

So, for a service tailored to your needs, contact Ian, he's waiting for your call!

Deano's Barber Shop is celebrating 10 years!

ABOVE:
With more and more local shops and facilities under threat, it is good to know that some Vale businesses are still thriving – such as Deano's business in Rhoose – which has just celebrated serving the people of Rhoose and its surrounding area for 10 years.

Dexters - a country tearoom where you can just chill out!

DEXTERS @ FELINDRE MILL on the border of the Vale is a farm with a difference, and is just two minutes from J35/M4 and 10 minutes from Cowbridge.

Our country tearoom, set in a traditional timber-framed barn, offers morning coffee, light lunches and afternoon tea. There is even a tasty, dinky Dexters menu for the children!

So if you are looking for somewhere to chill out, or meet friends for a coffee and a chat, why not call in and see us? We're sure Boris the cockerel and his brood of hens will be pleased to see you.

Call us on 01656 860017 or visit our website www.dextersfarm.co.uk.

If you would like to advertise in The Glamorgan GEM, please call 01446 774484 or email: gemsales@internet-today.co.uk

Enjoy some tranquility amidst your busy schedule . . .
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www.dextersfarm.co.uk
Please visit us and the animals soon!

Barry lifeboat races to stricken boat

BARRY lifeboat crew raced to rescue a drifting boat last Saturday (August 1) after it suffered engine failure.

The yacht, which left Swansea with two persons on board, was rescued in the early hours by the RNLI Barry Dock Lifeboat.

Another vessel which was escorting it tried to take the incapacitated boat under tow, but the lines parted on several occasions.

The Barry Dock Lifeboat was launched, located the boat and took it under tow and safely brought it to Barry harbour for urgent repairs.

Gerry Adams, the volunteer RNLI press officer at Barry, said: "This rescue was the first under the command of a newly-qualified coxswain, Ed Hides.

"Ed has had intensive training locally, and at the Lifeboat College in Poole. He will become another fully-trained coxswain on the crew of the Barry Dock Lifeboat."

The full time coxswain, Hugh Davies said that the Barry Dock Lifeboat has a very highly-trained and motivated crew and welcomes the promotion of Ed.

Mr Adams said that the training of volunteer crews is of the highest standards in the world.

He added: "It is through continuous voluntary contributions and legacies that the RNLI are able to provide this service."

Civic society wants to keep the Embassy

BRIDGEND Civic Society is to object to plans to demolish the old Embassy Cinema in the town.

The society has said it would prefer to see the old cinema converted to another use.

Spokesman Natalie Murphy said that the plans to demolish the Embassy were discussed at the last committee meeting.

Owner Mel Matthias wants to replace it with a temporary car park but long term, he would like to build a hotel on the gateway site.

She said: "It has no protection because it is not a listed building and is just outside the conservation area.

"It is an art deco building dating from 1939 and has been an iconic landmark for decades.

"I remember going to the Saturday morning children's club there as well as to see many films. We were lucky in Bridgend as we had three cinemas – the Embassy, the County Cinema and the Palace, which all showed different films each week.

"There was as much choice as people get today with a multiplex type cinema."

She said that many old Bridgend residents would have fond and happy memories of the Embassy and she was sad that it had fallen into disrepair.

Rain stops play for the Cadoxton Ladies

MILLWOOD Ladies welcomed Cadoxton to play in the evening league.

Regretfully, the rain became heavier as the evening went on, and it was decided to abandon the game and share the points.

The Thursday afternoon league game was against Llantwit Major at Cadoxton, and the ladies battled against the wind all afternoon.

Rink one: Cadoxton – P Bryant, M Slee, D Evans, J Tuck 17, Llantwit – K Johnes, C Davies, P Pine, E Gray 12.

Llantwit started in fine style gaining six shots. On the fifth end, Cadoxton gained three shots to bring the score to 3-6 down.

Scoring then was slow for Llantwit, giving a chance to catch up and Cadoxton scored seven shots to pull ahead.

A five for the ladies on the 12th end put them further ahead.

Rink two: Cadoxton – J Watkins, N Hitchen, M Paterson, M O'Callaghan 13, Llantwit – E Harding, K Mutlow, P Cook, M Davies 26.

Llantwit ladies steamed away, scoring 16 shots in the first seven ends. Cadoxton found it very difficult to score any more than one shot. They recovered a little, but were unable to make any impression on the score.

Rink three: Cadoxton – J Pycroft, P Cox, N Clissett, D Davies 13, Llantwit – L Crouch, J Voss, C Wilmott E Nicholl 17.

This was a game of two halves as Llantwit dominated in the first, and the score was 15-3 to Llantwit.

Then Cadoxton found form and scored 10 shots in the ends 11/16.

Llantwit came back to win the last two ends to win the match.

DD

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

MPN WINDOWS HAS OPENED ITS BRIDGEND SHOWROOM

barry-today.co.uk
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MPN WINDOWS was established in 1995 as a family business supplying and fitting uPVC windows, doors and conservatories to the trade and general public.

Since then, it has grown into a large reputable company in the south Wales area with showrooms from Aberdare, Neath, Maesteg and Port Talbot.

Recently, we opened a super new showroom in Bridgend, where we have many windows, doors and conservatories on display. Customers can visit seven days a week, which is great for those people who work through the week and only have spare time on the weekends.

You can order any house full of windows and doors in any of our showrooms and get free vertical blinds – an awesome offer!

MPN is a FENSA registered company. We also offer a repair service, and we have recently passed for Glamorgan Trustmark, which is a Government endorsed organisation for top quality service and workmanship to the general public.

MPN uses the world famous VEKA products and is part of NETWORK VEKA, which is endorsed by Steve Davies, the six times world snooker champion – so you know you are in good hands!

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MMM are here to help you maintain and take care of your vehicle in a convenient, cost-efficient way.

We are now able to travel to your home, or place of work, to complete a full service on your vehicle using top quality parts at a discounted rate.

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Eleanor Brookes – full of great clearance lines!

ELEANOR BROOKES at Ewenny Village are once again holding their great summer sale, full of great clearance lines, with prices starting from £3 for tops and £8 for trousers and skirts.

As usual our current stock will be in the sale at half price.

During August, our new season stock will be arriving with lots of new styles and colours from Emreco, Poppy, Casamia and Adini.

Eleanor Brookes are major stockists for all these brands, plus the extensive range of Mint Jewellery.

Also in August, we are handing out 10 per cent off vouchers for all our new autumn ranges.

Happy shopping! *Eleanor Brooks, 4 Wick Road, Ewenny; telephone 01656 658388.*

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Which style of massage would be best for you?

EVERYONE deserves a massage, which is great for restoring a tired body.

For some people it's finding the time, and for others the money.

So that everyone can try it, Steve Thomas is running an August special of just £25 for a one-hour massage!

He is available for home visits and will also be working out of the Little Shop of Calm (Halcyon Dayz) in Cowbridge.

These are the massages on offer, so what suits you? – deep tissue, remedial, sports massage, traditional relaxing Swedish massage, or a Thai massage (wearing loose clothing you are stretched and pressed in relaxation); – or try a combination!

Telephone 07876 110655; fresherlines@gmail.com

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4 Wick Road, Ewenny : 01656 658388

Vale Show offers networking opportunities

THE Vale Women's Business Network will be hosting a marquee at the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show.

It is a great opportunity to stop by for a friendly and informal chat – and to see what has made us one of the most successful networking forums in Europe!

Meet VWBN members from across the Vale who will showcase their winning businesses – and have a taster of what joining the VWBN is all about!

Find full programme and contact details at www.vwbn.org.uk

For more information please contact members@vwbn.org.uk.

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Vale Women's Business Network
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The Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show
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Fonmon Castle Park, Rhoose
Please come and meet us at our marquee - one of the most diverse of the day!
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Employment law advice when you need it most

AS we face the toughest economic environment for more than a decade, it is more important than ever that your interests are protected in the workplace.

In today's challenging economy, redundancy is an everyday reality and it has major consequences for employees and their families.

RTL Solicitors offer a cost efficient, comprehensive employment law service and will be able to provide you with the appropriate advice, should you find yourself in this difficult situation.

For further information, telephone Peter Marshall at RTL Solicitors on 01656 665850; or email peterm@rtl-legal.co.uk

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Facing redundancy at work?
Have you been made redundant or has the possibility of redundancy been discussed with you?
Have you been handed a compromise agreement?
To ensure that your interests are protected, contact RTL solicitors who will provide you with all the advice and support you need.
RTL Solicitors providing Employment Law advice, when you need it most Contact Peter Marshall
Head of Employment Law at Bridgend-Cardiff based RTL Solicitors
Tel: 01656 665850 • E-Mail: peterm@rtllegal.co.uk

Rhoose 'oldies' are top surf life savers

ABOVE: 'We are the Welsh champions' – Rhoose lifeguards celebrate at Aberporth.

THE Surf Life-Saving Association (SLSA) Welsh Masters Ocean Championships took place at Aberporth, and Rhoose Lifeguards masters section returned as Welsh champions.

The team of 11 men and eight women consisted of Dave Cooper, Steve Edgerton, Chris Braggins, Simon Parker, Alan Wadey, Paul Gardner, Neil Cordy, Andy Wall, Steve Baron, Mark Thompson, Brian Elliott, Karen O'Donaghue-Harris, Janine Cordy, Liz Wong, Helen Gardner, Sian Baron, Tracey Wadey, Michelle Wall and Elaine Edgerton.

Medal winners were: Dave Cooper, first swim, first board, first Ski, first ocean man, (four gold).

Simon Parker, second 1Km, third swim, second board, third ski, second ocean man, (three silver and two bronze). Paul Gardner, third sprints (one bronze).

Karen Harris, first 1Km, second sprints, second flags, first swim, first board, first ski, first ocean lady, (five gold and two silver).

Liz Wong, second 1Km, third sprints, second flags, third swim, first board, first ski, first ocean lady (three gold, two silver and two bronze). Janine Cordy, second ski (one silver)

Double events: Ski - 50+ (Cooper and Edgerton), second (silver); double ski - 40+ (Braggins and Parker) - second (silver); double ski - 30+ (Harris and Wong) - first (gold); ladies ski relay 117+ first (gold); ladies board relay 117+ - first (gold); men's board relay 117+ second (silver); mens board relay 87+ second (silver); ladies taplin relay 117+ first (gold); men's taplin relay 117+ third (bronze).

The overall results were: First, Rhoose (1368.5); second, Mumbles (895.5); third, Langland Bay (805.5); fourth, Sker (792); fifth, Penybont (542.5).

A great day was had by all and thanks goes to the families, especially the children, of the team for their support and encouragement, also to the IRB crews for providing water cover.

PELHAM 123 IS A TRAIN WORTH CATCHING

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

WHILE indisputably an actor of some weight and gravitas, Denzel Washington certainly isn't afraid of mixing it up, starring in films that aim to entertain rather than engage.

There may have been the odd mis-step in that plan (*Virtuosity*, *The Siege*) but when teamed with director Tony Scott in the likes of *Crimson Tide* and *Man On Fire* (we'll just brush *Déjà-Vu* under the carpet), the results have been more than watchable.

The pair team up again in a remake of *The Taking of Pelham 123*, where Washington plays Walter Garber, a subway dispatcher who finds himself embroiled in events when criminals (led by John Travolta) hijack a subway car and hold the passengers ransom.

Demanding $100 million in an hour, or else they will kill the passengers, Garber finds himself embroiled in a situation that is far bigger than he expected...

It seems that Hollywood is slowly running out of ideas, such is the collection of films based on comic book/fictional book/computer game/remakes (delete where applicable).

Nine times out of 10, this 'reimagining' of existing source materials, a phrase coined by Tim Burton concerning his disastrous take on *Planet of The Apes*, do nothing more than reaffirm our affinity for the original.

Having only been mildly aware of the original film and novel that *The Taking of Pelham 123* was based on, it meant that I wasn't going into the film with any baggage or expectation – resulting in an often gripping, yet somewhat lightweight, film that plays to the strengths of the main players, without ever truly pushing themselves.

Certainly, the ingredients are there for something that really stands out; after all, you are hardly going to hire someone like Tony Scott if you're not looking to create a film that balances a crash, bang, wallop sensibility with a degree of substance.

Unlike his older brother, Scott junior has never been a director who has received critical kudos, many comparing him (unfavourably) to Ridley; however, his commercial acumen is been far better, capable of constructing a fizzy blockbuster with a strong, and distinctive, visual style.

He offers more of the same here, the story set-up constricting his way with a set-piece, but Scott still injects into the film his unique editing and camera movements, while showing a comfortable ability to ramp up the tension.

It livens what could have been a far more low-key piece into something a touch more visually arresting.

The two leads are more than adequate in their roles, yet the feeling that they're operating within the comfort zone is all too prevalent.

Very few do 'noble everyman' as well as Denzel Washington, and while his character here has a murky past that the actor manages to subtly convey, he is ultimately the kind of character Washington excels at.

That isn't to say the actor coasts through the film – far from it, as he gives life to a character that we are given little background about; it's just the character is a familiar Washington archetype.

Villainy-wise, John Travolta does a more than competent 'bad-guy' – after all, he's far more compelling an actor on the wrong side of the tracks, as the likes of *Broken Arrow*, *Face/Off* and *The Punisher* will attest.

However, as the film progresses, and we learn more about what is motivating his character, we start to wonder how this plainly psychotic person ever operated in the field of his previous employment.

Travolta certainly laps up the role, sporting a nifty handlebar moustache, spouting expletives and getting himself all worked up as the relationship between him and Garber develops over the radio – but it comes at the price of the actor adding a little bit too much to the mix, the performance requiring a degree of toning down.

Dependable support from the likes of John Turturro, Luis Guzman and James Gandolfini gives the film a degree of depth, while Brian Helgeland's script eschews the original film's use of codenames for the villains (something borrowed by Quentin Tarantino for Mr White et al in *Reservoir Dogs*). It firmly plants the film in the 21st century, using the internet, stock markets and the post 9/11 attitude to acts of terror to give the film an identity of its own.

However, while Helgeland's script does a great job of building up the tension, it fails to offer a pay-off that concludes the film with any satisfaction.

Having kept the audience absorbed this long, the finale falls flat as a pancake and somewhat sours what was an engaging film.

However, while nowhere near the best that any of the creative forces behind it are capable of, it's still an eminently watchable piece of work.

VERDICT – A perfectly serviceable slice of Friday night popcorn entertainment, *The Taking of Pelham 123* is a pleasing, but lightweight, film.

While the direction of Tony Scott and performances of Denzel Washington and John Travolta give the film its own identity, that all three are so far in their comfort zones takes away some of the gloss of what is, come the end credits, an agreeable viewing experience. *Enjoyable*.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 7 OF SCHEDULE 14

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NOS 17B & 25 LLANBLETHIAN) DIVERSION ORDER 2009

On the 28th July 2009 the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert part of the public footpath as set out in the Schedule below.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 6th August 2009 until 17th September 2009. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £3.50.

This Order comes into force on the 28th July 2009 but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under Section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which Notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to that Act.

SCHEDULE

Description of site of existing path

Public Footpath No 17b Llanblethian

Commences adjacent the former railway line at ST 0007 7478 and proceeds north-north-eastwards for approximately 91 metres, then turns northwards across agricultural land for approximately 163 metres. The path continues north-north-eastwards for approximately 120 metres to terminate at ST 0017 7514.

Length:374 metres Width: 2 feet

Public Footpath No 25 Llanblethian

Commences at ST 0006 7471 and proceeds east-south-eastwards across the school grounds for approximately 93 metres. The path then turns north-eastwards for approximately 17 metres to terminate on the adopted highway at the access point to an existing track at ST 0017 7470.

Length: 110 metres Width: 2 feet

Description of site of alternative path

Public Footpath No 17b Llanblethian

Commences adjacent the former railway line at ST 0007 7478 and proceeds north-westwards for approximately 22 metres, then keeping the hedge on the left the path turns northwards for approximately 133 metres. It continues north-westwards for approximately 83 metres, where it then turns north-eastwards for approximately 209 metres to terminate at ST 0017 7514.

Length: 447 metres Width: 1.5 metres

Public Footpath No 25 Llanblethian

Commences at ST 0006 7471 and, keeping the hall on the left, proceeds north-north-eastwards for approximately 51 metres and gains access to the existing track. The path turns south-eastwards along the track for approximately 101 metres to terminate on the adopted highway at ST0017 7470.

Length: 152 metres Width: 1.5 metres

Dated this 6th day of August 2009

Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration
Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
SECTION 119 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NOS 19 & 20 PENLLYN) DIVERSION ORDER 2009

On the 28th July 2009 the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath as set out in the Schedule below.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 6th August 2009 until 17th September 2009. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £3.50.

This Order comes into force on the 28th July 2009, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice is first published make an application to the High Court.

SCHEDULE

Site of Existing Path

Restricted Byway No 19 Penllyn

Commences on a track at SS 9870 7754 and proceeds north-eastwards for approximately 147 metres to terminate at the junction with Public Footpath No 20 Penllyn within the garden of Chatwood at SS 9880 7765.

Length: 147 metres Width: 9-12 feet

Public Footpath No 20 Penllyn

Commences within the garden of Chatwood at the junction with Restricted Byway No 19 Penllyn at SS 9880 7765 and proceeds north-eastwards out of the garden and along the private drive for approximately 86 metres to terminate at SS 9887 7770.

Length: 86 metres Width: 3-6 feet

Site of New Path

Restricted Byway No 19 Penllyn

Commences at SS 9870 7754 and proceeds south-eastwards for approximately 16 metres. Keeping the boundary to Chatwood on the left, the path turns north-eastwards through a field to terminate at the junction with Public Footpath No 20 Penllyn at SS 9881 7761.

Length: 143 metres Width: 3.7 metres

Public Footpath No 20 Penllyn

Commences at the junction with Restricted Byway No 19 at SS 9881 7761 and keeping the boundary of Chatwood on the left proceeds north-eastwards through a field for approximately 106 metres to terminate on the private drive at SS 9887 7770.

Length: 106 metres Width: 3.7 metres

Dated this 6th day of August 2009

Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration
Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

Dinas Powys Show appeal

ONE of the features of the Dinas Powys Village Show is the great number of entries in the young people's classes.

Although we have had lots of entries from two schools within Dinas Powys, one school's letter was lost in the post. This has meant that that its usually excellent number of entries was not forthcoming – a great disappointment to the show's organisers.

It would be great if junior school pupils could take a look at the schedule and posters on the village noticeboards and do something for the show during the summer holidays. People who come to the show love to see the items submitted by the youngsters.

Schedules can be obtained from many outlets in the village (look out for the orange posters).

More details on 029 2051 3274 and 029 2051 4173. We look forward to seeing those entries so, please parents, encourage the children to enter!

VH

Out and About with The GEM

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 577.

● **£2000:** 641955. ● **£500:** 453707 ● **£100:** 196060. ● **£50:** 604233. ● **£10:** 147304, 182132, 500673, 419046, 857602, 629177, 234233, 899156, 484615, 857134, 475531, 843684, 251876, 866861, 349053, 443587, 313481, 254285, 795924, 576305.

● **£5:** 280879, 829652, 389294, 471466, 719996, 173126, 799313, 243848, 742914, 889727, 493132, 691365, 863220, 797277, 558767, 816918, 272013, 494680, 471083, 108431, 665593, 474269, 409517, 111565, 284858, 215000, 269922, 639554, 394869, 771531.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Win mythical stamps with Royal Mail and The Glamorgan GEM

A BOULDER-WIELDING giant and a fire-breathing dragon are just two of the illustrations on Royal Mail's stunning Mythical Creatures stamps released by Royal Mail, and readers of The Glamorgan GEM can win themselves a presentation pack of these beautifully-illustrated stamps in this month's competition with Royal Mail.

The six stamps feature fantastical characters from the UK's rich history of folklore and legend, brought to life by the artist Dave McKean. They were designed by Morgan Radcliffe.

Val Bodden, external relations manager, Royal Mail, said: "These stamps are truly breathtaking. The artist has created a series of images which, by turn are beautiful, amusing - and spine-tingling."

To enter the competition all you have to do is answer this question: *Which of these isn't a mythical creature?*

(A) Unicorn **(B)** Giant or **(C)** Tom Cruise.

Send your answer on a postcard marked 'Mythical Stamps' to: The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than August 14.

No correspondence will be entered into and judge's decision is final.

Barrivale Bridge Club news

ON Tuesday, July 28, the results were as follows:

First, Mark Roderick and Betty Lewis – 6.67 per cent; second, Joan Jenkins and Noelle Bond – 60.94; third, Denis Mottram and Mick Green – 58.33. Mark and Betty also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, for more information telephone 01446 733425.

Green flags and pennants are awarded

BELLE Vue Park in Penarth and Victoria Park in Barry have been awarded Green Flag status, and the Upper Orchid Fields, Wenvoe, and Cwmtalwg Nature Area have gained Green Pennant status.

The Green Flag Award, managed by Keep Britain Tidy, is the national standard for parks and green spaces and recognises the best green spaces in the country.

Housing Minister Ian Austin said: "Green spaces provide us all with some free space to have fun and relieve the stresses of modern life – whether we want to enjoy a picnic, play some tennis or just sit back and relax.

"The Green Flag Award scheme is rewarding our best green spaces and encouraging others to achieve the same high standards."

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, said: "These awards demonstrate the council's commitment to the improvement of parks and green spaces across the Vale, spaces that can be enjoyed by all."

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www.dyffryngardens.com
dyffryn@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Memorial Hall and Theatre

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Mon 17 – Weds 19 August
Musicals Summer School
Mon 24 – Fri 28 August
Afternoon Cafe Concert
Tues 18 August 3pm
(with free tea and cake)
Bank Holiday Picnic Theatre
Shakespeare's Globe brings A Midsummer Night's Dream to St Donats Castle gardens
Mon 31 August 6.30pm
Nicholas Parsons
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- Double-glazing
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- Double glazing
- Front ramp and shower

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- Three-bedroom house
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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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CWRT MELIN Y RHOS, BARRY

H4U Reference 992899
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40– no pets
- One–bed flat (FF)
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- Double glazing
- Communal entrance
- Parking

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H4U Reference 1031067
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40
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- Steps to front door
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Shower room

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Suitable for families
- Four-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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DYFNALLT ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 208171
Suitable for families
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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ELIZABETH AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 209242
Suitable for families
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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

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Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
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- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

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GLEBE STREET, PENARTH

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Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio flat
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- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £76.68 pw including alarm and water charges

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H4U Reference 1030519
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
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- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Comm. grdn & entrance
- Warden on site

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H4U Reference 1030995
Suitable for a family (all over 60 or 55 with medical needs)
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme Manager & alarm

Rent £93.35 pw including service and alarm charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1030995
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 or 55 with medical needs
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- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme Manager & alarm

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- Double glazing

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- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

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FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Buttrills Walk	11	Silver	08/01/08
Campbell Court	34	Silver	15/01/07
Cresswell Court	37	Gold	05/12/08
Dowland Road	98	Gold	11/08/08
Dunlin Court	54	Gold	01/12/08
Fairoaks	14	Gold	17/03/09
Gwenog Court	10	Silver	11/09/07
Hill Street	19	Bronze	17/04/07
Irving Place	53	Gold	21/04/08
Laugharne Court	40	Gold	06/08/08
Maes Yr Ysgol	132	Gold	11/11/08
Stradling Place	71	Gold	08/12/08
Harlech Gardens	21	Silver	20/02/09
Wellwood Drive	37	Gold	13/01/09

SOMERSET ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 224072
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
- One bedroom bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens
- Community alarm

Rent £78.30 pw including water and alarm charges

ST DONATS CLOSE, LLANTWIT MJR

H4U Reference 1030995
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 or 55 with medical needs
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Alarm system

Rent £63.32 per week including service and alarm charges

TORBAY TERRACE, RHOOSE

H4U Reference 248107
Suit. for a single person, couple or family – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

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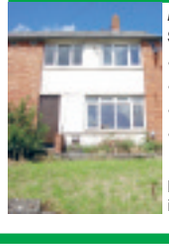

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- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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Lougher Place, St Athan

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Picketston Close, St Athan

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Cwrt y Cadno, Llantwit Major

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Tennyson Way, Llantwit Major

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7th August

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To be received by 19th August 2009.
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Offers by sealed bid to David Davies, Barry College, Colcot Road, Barry, CF62 8YJ.
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Public Notices

Bwrdd Lechyd Lleol
Local Health Board
Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr, Bridgend

PUBLIC NOTICE
A meeting in public of the
Bridgend Local Health Board
will be held on
Thursday 13th August 2009
at **2.30 pm** at
The Innovations Centre,Technology Drive
Bridgend Science Park
Bridgend, CF31 3NA
ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME
We welcome communication in both English and Welsh. If you require any translation facility at the meeting, please contact us prior to the meeting.

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fydd yn agored i'r cyhoedd
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am **2.30yp** yn adeilad
Y Ganolfan Arloesi/The Innovations Centre
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Parc Gwyddoniaeth Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990
NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building

Application No: 2009/00739/FUL
Proposal: Construction of extension to provide orangery with glazed walls, slated roof and lantern roof light
Location: The Old Rectory, St Mary Church, Cowbridge
Listed Building: Affecting The Old Rectory, Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER, 1995
Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way

Application No: 2009/00740/FUL
Proposal: Replace existing shed and field shelter with stables for own use
Location: Land adjoining 3, Cwrt Llanfleiddan, Llanblethian

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 14 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 6th August, 2009

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation

The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry, CF63 4RT

Fixture congestion bad news for players

UNDER-STRENGTH CADOXTON BOWLERS HAVE TOUGH WEEK

A PLETHORA of fixtures, due to rearranged games, brought Cadoxton little success during the past week, and left them in the relegation zone.

The weather intervened on Wednesday when the Munro Cup was postponed against Penarth.

On Thursday, the 'A' side travelled to Llantwit Major, sprinkled with a number of regular club side players, and had a successful evening in one of the rearranged games.

On Saturday, both sides (with weakened teams) lost their League fixtures.

Finally, another defeat came on Sunday with another patched up team.

CADOXTON V LLANTWIT MAJOR (CML6)

IN the match against Llantwit, Alan Carpenter's rink trailed until a '6' on the 15th end put them in front.

This lead was increased by two '3s' near the end. The rink skipped by Roy Harding romped to a comprehensive win, only losing on six ends.

Graham Brown's four conceded a '4' on the final end to lose after a run of three '3s' looked like giving them the points. Finally, a '2' against on the last end tied the scores on Gary Jones' rink.

D Collard, B Knight, L Cundliffe, A Carpenter, 22-14; G Solomon, G Davies, J Stewart, R Harding, 25-8; P Ellis, L Davies, D Jones, G Jones, 17-17; R Doble, M Curtis, I Robertson, G Brown, 22-24.

Total: 86-63.

CADOXTON V PENYRHEOL (CML2)

AFTER a morning of torrential rain, the game at Penyrheol was in doubt.

It was eventually started, with some water on the green, after excellent work by their greenkeeper made it possible.

Unfortunately, Gordon Davies slipped and could not take part in the game. Further accidents were had by Don Kuhnell and Graham Brown, but they continued.

The loss of Gordon on Kelvin Chedgzoy's rink upset the team and they lost heavily. A '6' and a '5' were conceded in the early stages after Don's accident, which left them always chasing the game. The deficit was reduced, but not enough by the end.

The only success came from Graham Brown's rink, which kept in front throughout the game, thanks to a superb performance from the lead Ashley Brown.

The Gary Jones rink started well, with a 6-0 advantage, but a bad spell in the middle took away the advantage to trail 9-16. A run of success brought five singles, which left just a two-shot deficit going into the final end.

Unfortunately a '4' was dropped and the points were lost.

A Brown, W Eadie, A Carpenter, G Brown, 25-18; H Hellyar, D Evans, L Davies, D Kuhnell, 19-26; T Bishop, G Davies, L Cundliffe, K Chedgzoy, 12-37; D Tuck, P Ellis, W Vaughan, G Jones, 14-20.

Total: 70-101.

CADOXTON A V MURCH (CML6)

IN the A side match against Murch, Barry Sales' rink was 5-1 up after three ends, but did not score again until nine shots were scored during the last four ends.

Roy Harding's rink was 10-0 down before their first score on the seventh end. The eventual outcome was a nine-shot defeat.

Vernon Bryant's four also had a bad start, trailing 9-0. A recovery brought the deficit to just one, but a '5' against on the penultimate end spoilt the improvement.

Mike Curtis skipped a triple, due to being a player short, and collected the only two points with a win after having a six-shot penalty deducted.

D Collard, L Little, I Robertson, B Sales, 14-23; R Doble, I Dunbar, M Curtis, 24-14; Knight, R Cole, J Stewart, R Harding 17-26; G Powell, G Solomon, S Pycroft, V Bryant 15-20.

Total: 70-83.

CADOXTON V YSTRAD MYNACH (CML2)

A HOME game against Ystrad Mynach completed a bad week with another defeat.

Four points were obtained from wins by the rinks skipped by Graham Brown and Gary Jones, but the other two rinks were well beaten.

T Bishop, D Brook, A Carpenter, G Brown, 23-18; H Hellyar, D Evans, I Robertson, D Kuhnell, 10-29; T Bishop, G Davies, L Cundliffe, K Chedgzoy, 7-25; W Eadie, P Ellis, L Davies, G Jones, 20-16.

Total: 60-88.

Romilly A bowlers clock up big win

BARRY Romilly Bowls Club A side entertained Rumney Bowling Club for an A side clash on the first day of August.

Romilly were the winners of 12 match points, with an aggregate score of 123-56.

Alf Woolcock's rink of A Bumford, D Ford and G Rees won their game with the highest score and margin on the day. They led from start to finish.

Romilly skip Alf was more than pleased with his team's form scoring a big '6' on the way to a 39-4 win.

Bob Wyatt's rink of B Cheal, C Davies and K Clements also had a cracking game. They scored a big '6' on the second end and went on to capture a very big '7' on the 19th end for a 37-14 win.

Vince McFarland's rink of D Bannister, A Jones and L Jones won their rink 35-18. The game started with Romilly winning a big '6' on the third end. Rumney then scored a maximum eight shots on the sixth end, which is an unusual occurrence.

There was some good scoring and skipper Vince was very happy to take the win.

Bryn Gough's rink of P Hoad, J Coles and K Westgate did not fare well in their match. Scoring was slow and low throughout the game, with their opponents back two finishing stronger to win the rink 12-20.

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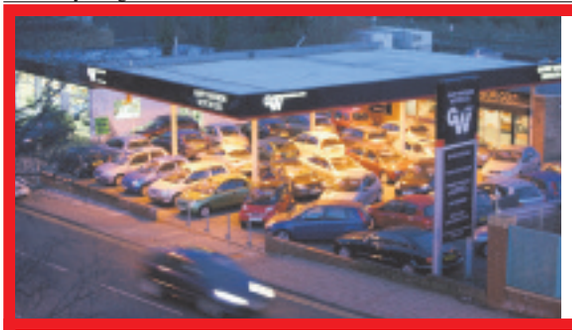

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04 **04 MINI 1.6 Cooper Pepper 3-dr Hatchback.** In chilli red with half leather interior, rear spoiler, alloy wheels, air con, only 50,170 miles **£7,495**

03 **03 MINI 1.4 TD One Salt Pack.** In Indi Blue with beige and panther black full leather interior, automatic climate control, heated seats, electronic sunroof, only 79,370 miles **£7,495**

L **93 AUSTIN Mini 1.3 Sprite 2-dr Saloon Automatic.** In night fire red with grey interior, all original specification, only 47,215 miles **£2,995**

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07 **07 NISSAN Micra C+C 1.6 16v Active Luxury 2-dr Cabriolet.** Black, grey half leather interior, climate control, front fog lights, multi function steering wheel, heated drivers seat, only 10,585 miles **£9,995**

05 **55 VW Beetle 2.0 2-dr Cabriolet.** In reflex silver with black leather interior, heated seats, air con, cd, alloy wheels, only 25,010 miles **£9,995**

05 **05 FORD Street ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible** in French met, blue with ebony black leather interior, heated seats, air con, elec windows, front fogs, cd,only 17.050 miles **£6,495**

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08 **08 JAGUAR X-Type 2.2 Diesel Sport premium plus.** In metallic nightshade with full cream leather interior, electric memory seats, colour touch screen sat nav, bluetooth, 18" Jaguar split rim alloy wheels, front and rear parking distance control ..... **POA**

05 **54 VW Golf 1.6 Fsi (115ps) SE 5-dr hatchback.** In New River Blue with anthracite interior, climate control, cruise control, cd, only 42,490 miles **£7,495**

05 **55 VOLVO S40 2.0 Diesel SE** in Amethyst with Ivory Leather interior, cd, alloys, cruise control, electric sunroof, electric seats, only 34,255 miles **£9,995**

05 **05 MAZDA 3 2.0 Sport 5-Dr Hatchback.** In sunlight silver with ebony black interior, colour coded bumpers, automatic air con, alloy wheels, CD, only 19,400 miles **£7,995**

04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles **£8,995**

04 **54 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110bhp GTi 3-dr Hatchback.** In Sahara yellow with half anthracite leather/suede interior, digital air con, multi CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 22,755 miles **£6,995**

04 **54 JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 Diesel Classic.** Jaguar Racing Green with dark interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, 63,000 miles **£5,995**

03 **03 AUDI TT 1.8 T Quattro 225bhp 3-dr Coupé** In Mauritius Blue with grey leather interior, heated seats, automatic climate control, multi CD, colour coded bumpers, only 32,170 miles **£12,495**

02 **52 AUDI A4 SE 2.0 Petrol 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In Crystal Blue with phoenix cloth interior, parking sensors on front and rear, air con, CD, alloy wheels, electric windows, only 55,560 miles **£5,995**

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08 **57 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback.** In apple green with Cascade indigo interior, climate control, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, heated front screen, only 3,873 miles **£5,995**

07 **07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2i 16v SXi 3-dr hatchback** in black sapphire with black interior, air con, alloy wheels, cdm colour coded bumpers, only 19,615 miles **£7,495**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-dr Hatchback.** In chemical gray with drop blue black interior, central locking, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 22,120 miles **£5,795**

06 **56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback** in tonic blue with tungsten/denim interior, air con, alloy wheels, quick clear screen, cd, front fogs, only 24,250 miles **£5,995**

06 **06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-dr Hatchback.** In onyx black with madison grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, low insurance, only 14,545 miles **£5,995**

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04 **04 FIAT Punto 1.2 8v Active 5-Dr Hatchback.** In crystal metallic with grey tek interior, immobiliser, electric front windows, colour coded bumpers, only 10,170 miles **£3,795**

03 **03 FORD Ka 1.3 Luxury 3-Dr Hatchback.** In metallic black with light Cyprus leather interior, electric windows, quick clear front screen, alloy wheels, CD, air con, only 48,741 miles **£3,495**

02 **02 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Privilege 5-dr Hatchback.** In Nordic green with vertigo grey interior, air con, sunroof, 5 belted seats, body coloured bumpers, power steering, only 38,940 miles. **£3,495**

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06 **06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 16VSE 5-Dr Hatchback.** In hurricane grey with Ikho black interior, front fog lights, multi CD, air con, rear parking sensors, only 40,018 miles **£6,995**

04 **54 NISSAN Primera 2.0 SX 5-Dr Hatchback.** In ice silver with graphite interior, CD, reversing camera, air con, only 48,327 miles **£4,495**

04 **04 FORD Mondeo 1.8 LX 5-dr Hatchback.** Stardust silver, majestic ebony interior, cruise control, heated front screen, cd, only 45,345 miles **£3,995**

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02 **52 CITROEN C3 1.4i LX 5-dr Hatchback.** In topaz metallic, grey arcus interior, e/w, steering wheels mounted audio controls, immobiliser, only 62,265 miles **£3,395**

05 **55 VW Beetle 2.0 2-dr Cabriolet.** In reflex silver with black leather interior, heated seats, air con, cd, alloy wheels, only 25,010 miles **£9,995**

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08 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6i Twin Top Sport. A/c, alloys, cd **£12995**
05 05 STREET KA 1.6i Ice 2-dr. Full leather, a/c, alloys, cd **£5995**

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06 06 FIESTA 1.6 Ghia 5-dr Auto. Alloys, a/c, cd, full electrics **£7295**
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06 06 FOCUS 1.6 Sport Estate Auto. Alloys, a/c, cd **£6495**
06 55 FOCUS 2.0 Ghia 5-dr Auto. Alloys, cd, cruise **£6995**
06 06 C-MAX 2.0 Zetec Auto. Alloys, a/c, cd, choice. **£6995**
06 55 C-MAX 2.0 Ghia Auto 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd **£7295**
05 05 MONDEO 2.0i LX Auto 5-dr. A/c, cd **£5695**

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07 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Sport 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd, ... **£7495**
07 07 VW Fox 1.2S 3-dr. Cd, electrics **£5295**
06 56 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi Dynamique 3-dr. A/c, cd, full electrics **£6995**
06 06 NISSAN Note 1.4 Auto SE 5-dr. A/c, cd, full electrics **£6995**
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06 06 TOYOTA Yaris T3 3-dr. A/c, cd, met. grey, under 15k miles **£6495**
05 55 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Sport 3-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd **£4495**
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04 54 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.6 Life 5-dr. A/c, cd, electrics **£4495**
04 04 VW Polo 1.2S 3-dr. A/c, cd, electrics **£4295**
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GEM sport

GLAMORGAN FARMERS GOLF SOCIETY NEWS

TEAMWORK IS THE KEY FOR GRIFF AND TONY

AS all golfers know, the art of dovetailing in better-ball competitions is essential, and this was proved when, despite having two mediocre individual rounds, property developer Griff Morgan and society secretary Tony McCarthy came out on top.

They scored 35 stableford points to win the monthly meeting of The Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society at the increasingly difficult Pyle and Kenfig Golf Course.

Back to back net birdies by Griff on the 443-yard 17th and 436-yard closing hole proved crucial, as a back nine score of 18 points was enough to head the leaderboard and receive the Maesglas Veterinary Shield from sponsor Mr Mike King.

The prize-winners after a testing day on the links at Pyle and Kenfig.

Eagle for Tosh

In second place, also with 35 points but an inferior back nine, were Keith Wilding and Tosh Taylor, which included a superb eagle by Tosh on the 370-yard third hole.

Treasurer Reg Davies and near neighbour Bryan Owen, winner and runner-up from the previous society meeting, continued their successful run to finish third with 33 points, just ahead of fourth-placed Mike Lee and John Caines.

Failing to score on the 503-yard par five fifth hole, when both players lost their balls, proved costly for defending winners from last year, Clive Edwards and Trevor Wooding, who finished in fifth place with 32 points.

The outstanding performance of the day belonged to Pyle and Kenfig men's captain Richard Hearn and his partner Roger Jones. Playing off handicaps of four and six respectively, they scored an incredible 42 points to easily win the guest section and, in the process, demoralised playing partners Julian Kelly and Mike King. Runners-up with 32 points were Patrick King and Gordon Cooper.

Keith Gibson, enjoying a rare day off from assisting wife Nicola with arrangements for the forthcoming Vale of Glamorgan Agriculture Show, celebrated his return from sick leave by winning the 'James the Butcher' sponsored longest drive, while Llancadle farmer David Williams returned from a few days' holiday searching for the sun in west Wales to win the Premier Turf-sponsored lost ball sweep, resulting in £100 being donated to the Coity branch of the Riding for the Disabled.

Nearest the pin

A serious loss of form by Martin David was offset when he was nearest the pin on two of the short par three holes to collect two bottles of vintage wine and six golf balls, which helped to replace his contribution to the 117 that were left out on the course.

Griff Morgan, the only person to play with the same ball throughout the day, was also successful in this section.

Colin Humphreys, Richard Hearn and Tosh Taylor (with that eagle on the third hole) added to their pension fund when sharing the 2s sweep.

A number of members have recently been laid up suffering from long-term football-related injuries, including former Pontyclun centre forward from the 1970s Chris Rooney (Achilles), ex-flying winger Aubrey Bowen (metatarsal) who, during the 1950s, played for Penmark in the Barry & District Football League, and also former Cowbridge veteran from the 1950s, Rees Roberts (shoulder). The society wishes these members a speedy recovery.

Foxy problem for Keith!

The quarter-final games of the Nipper Jewell Memorial knock out competition were keenly contested, with Bryan Owen, despite conceding home territory, winning 2 and 1 against Neil McLean, and John Caines easily seeing off the challenge of David Williams.

Llantrisant & Pontyclun Golf Club hosted the two remaining games, with Godfrey Lewis getting through against Trevor Wooding, who was unlucky when his approach shot to the final green became lodged 40 foot up a fir tree.

The remaining match was played in a sombre atmosphere between two farmers bemoaning the drop in lamb prices, and also the increasing activity of roaming foxes.

Part time poultry farmer Keith Walker from Talygarn, despite being in a 'fowl' mood after recently losing 75 per cent of his 'two-a-day except on Sunday' corn-fed prized chickens to a hungry fox, put this distressing incident out of his mind to win 4 and 3 against Llantwit Major farmer Brian Jones.

Animal rights activists' reading this column will be relieved to know that Keith's one remaining chicken has since been granted poultry asylum to spend the rest of her days in-house.

In the semi finals, which have to be played on neutral territory, John Caines has been drawn to play Keith Walker and Godfrey Lewis is to play Bryan Owen.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27 at Bryn Meadows Golf Club, when members will be competing for the Anthony Brown Cup, sponsored by Llantwit Major estate agents Anthony Brown Ltd.

TMcC

Bowlers forced to battle with the weather!

RAIN was the winner (again) in two of Cowbridge Bowling Club's matches.

The ladies had their game, away to Porthcawl, cancelled for the second time and the men had their home Munro Cup game against Murch called off.

In their home Rose Bowl match, against Cardiff Sophia Gardens, the ladies won 37-33.

Pat Davey's rink of Diane Purnell, Margaret Cooper and Glenys Davies, won well 24-14, while Joan Bradley's rink of Lynda Wilson, Pat Houldsworth and Joy Woolford lost 13-19.

It was another good win for the girls in the Rose Bowl.

They also won in the league by 83-23 at home to Barry Central.

May Jones' rink had a big win by 42-14, and Pat Davey's rink won 21-8, with help from Glenys Davies, Pat Houldsworth and Shirley Wilkinson.

The only close game was on Sue Flowers' rink, who were losing but came back well to win 20-11. Sue was helped by Mary Thomas, Lynda Wilson and Judy Springett.

In the semi-final of the Huw Meddins One Rink Cup, the men lost 7-27 at home to Dinas Powys, who had Huw Meddings playing for them!

Dennis Snelling's rink of Mansel Davey, Bill Looker and Brian Williams were no match for the very good bowlers from Dinas.

The league game, at home to St Joseph's, was a must-win situation and the men duly did, 103-66, for 12 needed points.

Brian Kent's rink won 33-13, but Roger Barwick's rink of Ron Frayling, John Trott and Michael Bradley lost 19-24.

The best and most exciting game was on Dennis Snelling's rink, who, with four ends left, were losing 10-18, but with a determined effort, picked up 10 shots to win 20-18. Other members of the rink were Mansel Davey, Bill Looker and Norman Wilkinson.

The next league game is away to Ystrad Mynach. Let's hope for some sunshine.

NJW

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Local athletes are aiming for stardom

Rising stars – Curtis Matthews (on left) and Jamie Sexton.

WITH Barry Harriers Club growing in size, Fred Malkin must take credit for his perseverance since he became chairman.

The Harriers have kept up their tradition of turning out athletes capable of attaining international honours and championship medals, though two male athletes this year have stood out.

James Sexton has shown steady progress over the last year or two. In the last couple of months, he has taken the silver medal for the 100 metres in the under-17 Welsh Championship.

Last week he represented Wales in the British Schools Championship in Ireland.

This annual match is regarded as the birthplace of future champions and Jamie knew he was in the toughest race so far.

In the 100 metres, he took the bronze medal with a personal best time of 11.1 seconds. He also gained a silver medal in the 4x100 metres in a close finish.

Curtis Matthews has also been showing some fine form in variations of multi events and championship events.

In the Welsh Schools he achieved the silver medal with a leap of 6.8 metres in the long jump. Again in a single event for the Welsh Schools, he took gold in the high jump with a leap of 1.85 metres.

In the Welsh Championships he again took the gold, with a total of 3,065 points.

Vale golfer mixes with best in world

Rhian Wyn Thomas.

TOP Welsh amateur Rhian Wyn Thomas, a member of the Vale Golf Club, has been rubbing shoulders with the best players in the world at the Ricoh British Open, just five years after first trying golf at the Royal Welsh Show.

As fourth reserve for the British Open, missing out in a play-off for the last place, Thomas enjoyed full practice rights at Royal Lytham and St Anne's – playing practice rounds with the likes of Australian pro Anna Rawson.

"I definitely could not have imagined this when I first tried hitting a golf ball in the net at the Royal Welsh, not at all," laughed Thomas.

"It has been a good five years but things are going particularly well at the moment. I have enjoyed every minute of it since first trying golf at the Royal Welsh."

Local trainers 'hit top form'

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

LOCAL trainers Tim Vaughan, Evan Williams, Bryn Palling and John Flint, have hit top form of late saddling winners all over the country.

Aberthin's Vaughan, who recently notched up his first ever four-timer with *Mission Control*, *Tanmeya*, and *Top Of the Knar*, who scored at Worcester, and *Burgess Hill* who won at Perth, added a double at Market Rasen on Sunday with *Sacrilege* and *Dead Or Alive*.

Meanwhile Llancarfan's Evan Williams, who won with *Sheshali* at Bath and *Barizan* at Bangor-on-Dee last Friday, has recently sent out the following winners – *Mr Robert* and *Back To Fit* at Worcester and *Super Ross* at Newton Abbot.

Kenfig Hill's John Flint won Sunday's feature race at Market Rasen with *Marrel*, ridden by his son Rhys, and Cowbridge's Bryn Palling won the Bath seller with 33-1 chance *Cwmni*.